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National variety within East Bloc — but not too much of it

Frankfurter Allgemeine

When Soviet rule was smotheringly imposed on eastern central and south-eastern Europe at the end of the war, Western governments and peoples saw the East in terms of uniform and monotonous squalor.

All over the East Bloc totalitarian despotism was seen as oppressing peoples and subjects. This was a realistic view.

In all countries in the Soviet empire the Kremlin destroyed non-communist parties, abolished freedom of information and transformed the judiciary into an adjunct of the police with unlimited powers.

The economy was nationalised, war was waged on the Church and religion and, Marxism-Leninism was introduced as a *compulsory* creed. Was this basic pattern not imposed all over eastern Europe?

The answer, even in Stalin's days, was that conditions were not everywhere identical. Moscow dealt differently with the national feelings of individual oppressed nations.

The Hungarians were expected to dispense with national sentiment, the Rumanians and Bulgarians to exercise restraint.

The Poles were permitted to be nationalist in outlook as long as their nationalism was anti-German.

The Czechs, who in those days were still decidedly pro-Russian in outlook, were allowed to wallow in nationalism.

In Roman Catholic countries, persecution of the Church went ahead in full swing. It was particularly harsh in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, but less so in Poland.

Czechoslovakia was far better supplied with consumer goods than either Rumania or Hungary.

All countries in Soviet-occupied Europe were hard hit in the immediate post-war period, but the Poles and East Germans were probably a little better off than the others.

More substantial and far-reaching differences in the system of government and realities of life in eastern central and south-eastern Europe did not arise until after the unrest that shook the region in 1956, however.

The Poles emerged with a leadership of their own making, combined with a considerable gain in sovereignty.

The suppression of the Hungarian uprising seemed initially to have the opposite effect: Hungary was now firmly under Soviet rule.

It was years before the Hungarians' courage paid dividends in terms of leeway to pursue economic policies of their own.

Rumania, which paid no more than lip service to destalinisation, nevertheless took advantage of the relaxation of Soviet pressure under Khrushchev and later of the Sino-Soviet conflict to embark on what initially was a tacit policy of national interest.

Czechoslovakia stubbornly resisted destalinisation. It did not set about its counterpart to 1956 until over a decade later. The 1968 "Prague Spring" led to a collapse and reversion to almost late Stalinist conditions. The Bulgarian and East German leaders sidestepped the consequences of destalinisation, later making use of other opportunities of leeway for the pursuit of policies more attuned to their national interests. The East Germans made use of their economic and technical lead and their reliability as loyal members of the East Bloc. The Bulgarians made use of the confidence they had earned by staunch loyalty to Moscow. What has become of these individual moves toward socialism in keeping with respective national conditions?

The result of decades of differentiation on the Soviet Union's doorstep has been socialism in such a variety of forms that the Soviet claim to uniformity has been set back sufficiently for the Soviet leaders themselves to gradually feel it to be more appropriate to frame it more flexibly.



Award for Mitterrand

French President Francois Mitterrand (right) receives an honorary citizenship of Frankfurt from Frankfurt's mayor, Wolfram Brück. M. Mitterrand travelled from Bonn, where he discussed cultural ties with Chancellor Kohl. (Essay page 5). (Photo: AP)

In Poland the private sector has held its own in agriculture, while the Church has remained the acknowledged representative of the Polish people.

Rumania insists on continuing with its foreign policy escapades, while Hungary's economic reforms have made it a far cry from the Soviet model.

In East Germany, the Churches insist on retaining their autonomy. Even Bulgaria has begun to espouse its own

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A cooler wind between Bonn and Moscow

No mention has been made in the Soviet media of Helmut Kohl's controversial *Newsweek* interview linking Mikhail Gorbachov's aptitude for public relations with that of Nazi Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels.

Any suggestion of a link between Gorbachov and Goebbels is so embarrassing in Soviet eyes as to be unpublishable. So unless some special stratagem is devised, Soviet public opinion will remain unaware of the reason for the latest chill in relations between Bonn and Moscow.

The Kremlin prefers to abide by its cautious policy of not announcing the arrival of a visiting politician until he has landed at Moscow airport.

No-one needs even to mention Bonn's Heinz Riesenhuber in the Soviet capital. His visit to Moscow was cancelled by the Russians at the last minute but that, Soviet officials seem to feel, need not concern the wider Soviet public.

The calling-off of Herr Riesenhuber's visit was consistent with the latest Soviet approach of retaliation by unconventional means.

In return for the expulsion of Soviet diplomats from the United States the Russians replied not in kind but by withdrawing Soviet auxiliary staff from the US embassy in Moscow.

A turn of phrase attributed to the German Chancellor to which the Russians took exception was countered not by a verbal broadside but by cancelling Herr Riesenhuber's invitation.

It was a response more cutting than virtually any conventional contents of the diplomatic bag.

The atoms-for-peace cooperation agreement Herr Riesenhuber, the German Research and Technology Minister, was due to sign in Moscow is important for both sides.

In political terms Bonn's interest is greater because the visit was to have dealt with the first of three agreements designed to flesh out the framework agreement on technological and scientific cooperation concluded by Foreign Minister Genscher.

Hailed as a "new leaf in the book of mutual relations," this framework agreement reached in July would now have been fleshed out with a detailed agreement if the visit had gone ahead, marking the beginning of an arduous return to normal.

That has now been postponed, as has the exchange of ideas and nuclear know-how from which the Russians would arguably have derived the greater benefit at this stage.

Topics covered ranged from safety at nuclear power stations and the disposal of radioactive waste to new developments in nuclear technology and research sectors such as plasma physics.

In making a point of showing they are in no hurry to hold joint seminars on such issues despite their thirst for knowledge the Soviet authorities make it clear how great the Kremlin's displeasure is.

In the final analysis the move must be seen in the same light as the hard line taken by the Soviet leader in Reykjavik.

Mr Gorbachov clearly has reasons for combining the wide range of his disarmament proposals with the strong hand of a superpower leader.

The Kremlin took exception to more than Chancellor Kohl's choice of words in what it saw as a provocation; it was also most annoyed by the time and place: the Reykjavik summit issue of a US newsweekly.

The way in which the Soviet media treated the Chancellor's visit to Washington augured ill. He was made out to be an eager US vassal and the first Nato leader to rush to Washington for his briefing.

It now remains to be seen whether all the effort expended on clearing away

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WORLD AFFAIRS

Warm-up bout on eve of Gatt main event

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Relations between the world's three major trading powers — Europe, America and Japan — are still strained.

Fresh clashes have occurred in Gatt on the eve of the eighth round of talks on liberalising world trade and preventing protectionism.

The European Community's role in these clashes is ambivalent.

Europe has repeatedly and at times trenchantly criticised the Japanese government and Japanese industry for restricting access to the Japanese market.

Yet Europe is also under heavy US fire, which is why several disputes have been referred to Gatt committees in Geneva with a view to reaching a solution.

Bilateral talks having failed to arrive at acceptable terms, mediation is in demand.

Trade ties between the European Community and Japan were a salient feature of Common Market foreign and trade policies in Wilhelm Haferkamp's time as vice-president of the European Commission in Brussels.

They retained this importance when former Belgian Finance Minister Willy de Clercq took over from Herr Haferkamp, who had spent 17 years with the Commission, at the beginning of 1985.

M. de Clercq has paid Japan several visits in his first two years in office. He has also hosted Japanese government and industrial representatives in Brussels.

European Community and Japanese officials have met at international conferences too, such as the Gatt preliminary gathering in Punta del Este, Uruguay, at the end of September.

Verbally the Japanese are invariably polite, responsive and — literally — most promising.

That goes both for the export self-restraint packages heralded and introduced by Premier Nakasone over the past two years and for pledges to ensure readier access for European products to the Japanese market, with its 117 million consumers.

Yet no matter what the Japanese have done so far, producers and exporters in the 12 European Community countries still face countless trade barriers and restrictions in Japan.

The European Commission has repeatedly called on manufacturers in Common Market countries not just to complain about Japanese behaviour but to work harder to gain a more significant share of the Japanese market.

But Commission officials in Brussels are well aware that this is still easier said than done.

Since the latest agreements between America and Japan on, say, microchip market restraint European entrepreneurs have been increasingly worried that Japanese exports might be about to inundate Europe next.

These fears are not entirely unfounded. The current boom in Japanese car sales in Germany must at least be seen as tending to confirm this trend.

The United States, beset by substantial deficits in trade with both Japan and Europe, is waging trade war on two fronts.

The deficit in US trade in goods with Japan last year totalled nearly \$40bn, while America's deficit in trade with the European Community amounted to roughly \$23bn (as against a surplus of \$19bn as recently as in 1980).

Given this encouraging trend in trade with the United States, Europe can have few grounds for complaint. Clashes occur solely in connection with American attacks on Europe.

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy has constantly been criticised, while this year Washington has seen fit to complain about the consequences of Spain and Portugal joining the Community.

America is worried that US exports of agricultural produce to Spain and Portugal may be seriously hit as a result.

This complaint has yet to be settled. It is one of the issues referred to Gatt for mediation in the hope that Gatt officials may be able to propose a satisfactory solution.

The latest clash between Europe and Japan has occurred because Tokyo has taken to imposing restrictions on imports of wine, spirits, skis and skiing equipment from the European Community.

Special tariffs and additional duties have been imposed on wine, whisky and other spirits from European Community countries with the result that wines and spirits imported from Europe can no longer compete with local products.

European manufacturers, having cornered 50 per cent of the Japanese market for skis and skiing equipment, suddenly faced safety requirements well above international ISO standards.

The Japanese argued that stricter standards were necessary because snow and weather conditions were more exacting in Japan than in Europe.

The European Community sees this argument as a mere pretext for trade restraint.

This is yet another issue that is to be referred to Gatt now the European Commission has given the go-ahead for proceedings against Japan in accordance with Article 23/2 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Whatever the outcome, a swift solution need not be expected, and in the meantime Europe's deficit in trade with Japan threatens to increase.

In the first eight months of this year it increased by 57.9 per cent in dollar terms.

Between January and September 1986 the Japanese surplus in trade with the European Community amounted to \$13.3bn, as against \$11.5bn all last year, with the year's end total likely to exceed \$15bn.

The Japanese say the European trade deficit has grown much less alarmingly — by a mere 8.2 per cent in yen terms — but the Europeans are not satisfied with this line of argument.

Yet it may fairly be argued that constant exchange rate fluctuations make it virtually impossible to draw exact comparisons.

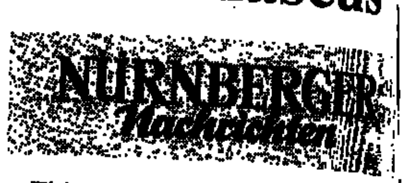
Against this background the European Community now plans to bring even heavier pressure to bear on Japan, adding actions to words.

European officials are increasingly wondering whether Mr Nakasone is at all serious about the undertakings he has given. May he not, in the final analysis, feel America is much more important than Europe?

Tokyo may well take the European countries, usually at loggerheads with each other, less seriously than the United States. If it does so, they will have only themselves to blame.

Hans-Peter Ott
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 31 October 1986)

Bomb-case upshot complicates Bonn's links with Damascus



Now Britain has broken off diplomatic ties with Syria and the United States and Canada have recalled their ambassadors from Damascus in view of Syrian complicity in international terrorism, Bonn's ties with Damascus have come under scrutiny again.

Mrs Thatcher's government called on European Community governments to show solidarity at a time when relations between Bonn and Damascus were returning to normal.

The Federal government temporarily froze relations with President Assad's regime in the early 1980s following activities by Syrian terrorist commandos in the Federal Republic.

Foreign Minister Genscher did not agree to reactivate ties until August 1985.

Relations between Bonn and Damascus have for years been subjected to severe and repeated strain.

Syria's intransigent attitude in the Arab-Israeli conflict, its ties with Moscow and its brutal repression of fundamentalist critics such as the Moslem Brotherhood made serious inroads on the prestige of the Syrian leader, who paid Bonn his last state visit in 1978.

Relations plummeted to rock bottom when terrorist commandos sent from Syria struck at opponents of President Assad in Germany.

Bonn was convinced the terrorists were acting on instructions from Damascus and froze development aid totalling roughly DM100m a year. By 1980 Syria had received over DM700m in German aid.

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Premier, spearheaded the thaw by visiting Damascus in February 1984 to break the ice.

He was able to base his move on the generally-held view that a Middle East settlement was impossible without Syria and could certainly not be imposed against Syria's will.

Questions

Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas referred to Herr Strauss as a "personal friend of President Assad and of mine."

Bundestag Opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel, a former Social Democratic mayor of Munich, the Bavarian capital, has now asked why Herr Strauss has nothing to say about Syria's role in international terrorism.

After all, he disdainfully added, the Bavarian Premier had again been welcomed as a state visitor to Damascus only last March.

Bonn resumed development aid in July 1985, authorising payment of DM72m in loans previously arranged. A further DM56m loan has just been granted.

Last year German industrial investment in Syria exceeded DM120m, the largest amount in any one Third World country.

Most was invested in petroleum projects by Deminex, a German company that produces oil in Syria. Oil accounts for three quarters of Syrian exports to the Federal Republic.

Trade continued to decline in the first six months of this year, with German exports 35.8 per cent down to DM262m and Syrian exports 66.5 per cent down to DM104m.

This autumn Foreign Minister Sharaa was due to visit Bonn.

He would have been the highest-ranking Syrian visitor to the Federal Republic for eight years.

During preparations for his visit Nezar Hindawi, a 32-year-old Jordanian, was found guilty of plotting, with Syrian backing, to blow up an El Al airliner with 370 passengers on board.

Bonn is likely to have been given notice of Britain's plan to break off diplomatic ties with Syria and could hardly afford to slight Whitehall by officially welcoming the Syrian Foreign Minister.

The Syrian authorities announced that the visit was to go ahead, evidently in a bid to force Bonn's hand, but the German government was unmoved.

It announced that talks had failed to reach agreement on a date for the visit.

Klaus Bering
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 28 October 1986)

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economic interests in dealings with the Soviet Union.

Variety is the keyword, yet nowhere have special characteristics made such an inroad into the political system as to warrant the claim that an alternative brand of socialism has taken shape to rival the Soviet variety.

Long before destalinisation in the Soviet Union Yugoslavia set out to establish an alternative.

Two years after Stalin's break with Tito the Yugoslav Communist announced plans for democratic, "self-governing socialism."

It was planned, or so it was said in Belgrade at the time, as a counter-reality to the dictatorship imposed on the people in the Soviet Union.

This idea sounded most promising to peoples oppressed by Soviet rule.

They hoped a different, freer socialism might bring about the renewal of the variety from which they were suffering.

The Yugoslav Communists changed a number of economic mechanisms and allowed their subjects a number of freedoms.

But neither Tito nor his successors introduced democratic socialism; they chose to abide by Leninist party rule.

It remains to this day the only brand of socialism so far practised in communist-ruled Europe.

Johann Georg Reissmüller
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 October 1986)

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HOME AFFAIRS

The parties glance towards the future — some more glancing than others

Of the many slogans bandied round by the parties during the general election campaign, one in particular is becoming more and more popular: *Zukunft* (future).

At the CDU party congress in Mainz, the party's business manager, Heiner Geissler, introduced a *Zukunftsmanifest* (a manifesto for the future) as a basis for discussion.

The SPD party congress in Nuremberg was also a future-oriented affair, concentrating on challenges during the next legislative period.

But, apart from the Greens with their very uninhibited relationship to the future and utopian ideas, none of the parties has a real idea about the future.

The CDU and CSU, with their complacent campaign slogan *Weiter so, Deutschland* (roughly: "Keep up the good work, Germany!") are primarily intent on preserving the tried and tested rather than promoting change.

Geissler realises that this is not enough and that it will be essential during the next parliamentary term to give the voters a more comprehensive vision about the future.

The SPD and its candidate for Chancellor, Johannes Rau, have indicated that if elected they will undo much of what the government has done over the past four years.

Traditional SPD issues (social justice, for example) the reconciliation of economic and ecological interests as well as the phaseout of nuclear energy over the next 10 years are the main items in the package for the future.



Yet when asked to be specific, Rau can't.

The suggestion of an income-tax surcharge on high-income earners, for example, in an effort to stop the "redistribution of income from the bottom to the top" of society is more a case of coming to terms with the past than with the future.

With its emphasis on the aspect of social justice in the state election campaign in Bavaria the SPD was not even able to persuade enough of its own regular voters to go to the polls.

Apart from foreign and security policies it is already clear which problems will represent the main challenges to the new government and opposition parties in Bonn after the general election.

One major problem will be how to control the far-reaching social implications of the new technologies which are rapidly changing the face of industrial society.

Another is how to safeguard the financing of retirement pensions and health insurance schemes after the year 2000 via a fundamental restructuring of the system.

A survey by the trades union confederation DGB of thousands of its members come up with some very interesting findings.

A clear majority of employees organised in trade unions felt that the introduction of new technologies is essential to maintain and strengthen the economy's competitive strength despite the associated job security risks.

At the same time 80 per cent of the employees surveyed felt that workers should be given a greater say in matters relating to decisions in this field.

The latter is all the more interesting in view of the fact that only a minority of the trade union members interviewed felt that the general, i.e. not issue-specific, demand by unions for more codetermination is important.

The collective bargaining partners, in particular employers, should take the fears voiced in this survey seriously and try to ensure the participation of workers in the shaping of their own future and the future of industrial society.

Whether this finds its expression in the form of special arrangements for specific plants or umbrella agreements containing guidelines for the introduction of new technologies, working conditions etc. is not the decisive issue.

The main thing is that goodwill is shown on both sides. This will enable an agreement to be found on how to introduce new technologies without excessively adverse effects.

This introduction should not be delayed for too long. New laws could help here.

Serious consideration must also be given to issues such as pensions, health or the safeguarding of a living wage.

Though the suggestion made by Kurt Biedenkopf (CDU) that a basic pension should be guaranteed by the government and topped up by payments from a private pensions insurance company was strongly criticised this does not mean that the idea need necessarily be wrong or impracticable.

Sticking to a system, even if the system has proven its worth for many decades, can result in a situation in which the problem at hand — in this case the dramatic shift in the ratio of contributions to and payments from pensions schemes — becomes insoluble if basic conditions change.

Above all, the CDU and SPD will have to initiate a new public discussion on this and related problems during the next legislative period.

Ideas wanted

The unexpected success of the Greens in the Bavarian state elections indirectly reveals how much discussion is needed on these issues.

The Greens were able to get 20 per cent or more of the vote in urban areas with a high average level of education and above-average levels of income.

This at least indicates that a large section of the population would like to see a discussion on new ideas that are indeed new.

The established political parties, especially the SPD, cannot in the long run afford to try to come to terms with the future with words while in reality pursuing the policies they have always been pursuing.

Peter Abspacher
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 25 October 1986)

SPD holds a special meeting in bid to boost election morale

General-Anzeiger

The Social Democrats have held a special party meeting in Offenburg in an attempt to give their shaken morale a pre-election lift.

The Bavarian election result, in which the party got a paltry 27.7 per cent of the vote, its worst performance since the war, hit confidence hard.

So did the Neue Heimat affair in which the huge trade-union run property group, heavily in debt, was sold off for a mark.

Shadow Chancellor Johannes Rau urged his fellow delegates to "fight alongside him"; parliamentary party leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said that the SPD was now "all the more determined" to win the election; and party chairman Willy Brandt called Rau "the best man" for the voters.

The delegates broke with tradition by singing the national anthem instead of the old workers' song, *Wann wir schreiten Seit' an Seit'*.

"I do not dream of a majority," Johannes Rau told the conference delegates, "I dream of a world which is more just."

As everyone knows, dreams rarely come true.

Stickers were handed out depicting a black-red-and-gold (the colours of the German flag) SPD balloon on a white compass background.

One delegate said, in jest and without knowing what Rau was to say in his speech, that plenty of hot air was needed to propel aircraft of this type. Also, there was no compass-needle on the compass.

In line with the motto "Renew to preserve the future!" and surrounded by flags Johannes Rau elucidated the SPD's stance in its relations with the West and the East.

His 48-minute speech referred to a critical partnership with the USA and to understanding and a balance of power with the East Bloc countries.

By the time he finished Rau's hair was ruffled and sweat was pouring down his cheeks.

The loud-speakers broke down several times and his rostrum almost collapsed on one occasion.

Unperturbed, Rau listed the main points of his policy programme, ranging from tax concessions to the revocation of SDI arrangements.

"My aim is to become a Chancellor of dialogue!" he proclaimed.

The delegates, however, did not seem all that convinced by his optimism.

Although there was plenty of applause and a standing ovation at the end the response was not all that enthusiastic.

The previous SPD congress in August already dealt with Rau's policy programme, which meant that he was unable to offer new aspects.

Even the most enthusiastic member of the SPD probably no longer seriously believes that the party can obtain an absolute majority.

Utopian objectives make it all the more difficult for the active party supporters working out in the wintry cold to state their case with real enthusiasm.

Rau still hopes that the SPD will be able to win on its own.

Sometimes almost kneeling, sometimes shadow-boxing Rau enumerated the mistakes made by the Kohl government.

His choice of words was restrained in accordance with his own motto "reconciliation not division".

To many of the delegates Rau's dream of a more just world may have sounded extremely pastoral.

Nevertheless, the delegates cheered.

In the foyer video spots were shown to show that "Brother Johannes" is a man of and for the people.

In his speech Rau appealed to the members of various professions and groups to vote for the SPD.

He urged listeners to cast aside clichés.

"Many people want to get involved and invest their personal time and energy in the process of renewal. Please take them seriously."

Harald Schäfer, a delegate from Baden, gave Rau a present of straw shoes from the Black Forest for the whole family, explaining how they keep out the cold.

Rau could also do with some ear-muffs too, since the likeable man from Wuppertal is going to have to face up to the icy wind of political opposition.

Rau knows which parts of his body are at risk, referring to the kick on the shins the SPD was given in Bavaria.

He warned against giving up the fight for victory on 25 January just because the party was still smarting from its wounds in Bavaria.

Two former SPD stars, Herbert Wehner and Karl Schiller, were sat among the delegates in the audience.

Helmut Schmidt was on a visit to Potsdam.

The party's new stars, nicknamed Willy's (Willy Brandt's) grandchildren, were up on the stage: Oskar Lafontaine, Karsten Voigt, Gerhard Schröder, Dieter Spöri, Volker Hauff, Björn Engholm and Anke Fuchs.

Willy Brandt, the undisputed authority in the SPD, was sat alongside them.

Criticising the CDU and CSU Brandt stressed that the conservative parties must be replaced by the "lively" SPD as the "party of renewal".

The SPD and Johannes Rau still have three months to make the impossible possible.

By focussing on tax policy issues the SPD is trying to tackle the government in fields in which many people feel it has been successful.

Rau did not refer to the Greens. He wants to get "what is his by right".

However, the difference between reality, i.e. the last general election result, and the target of 48 per cent described by Rau as "extremely meaningful" is 9.8 per cent.

Ekkehard Kohrs
(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 27 October 1986)

■ THE GREENS

The number one runner in an all-women slate

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Christina Kukielka, No. 1 in the women-only Green-Alternative List of candidates for the Hamburg assembly elections today, is a cool customer.

She remains level-headed when men's heads grow hot. "I must think that one over," she says whenever an issue seems to merit closer consideration.

She is unmoved by slogans and campaign generalisations. Figures are what count.

She has a mind of her own and, as the others soon notice when it is her turn to speak, there is plenty in the mind behind her expressionless face and beneath her Afro hairstyle.

At a campaign meeting in Eidelstedt, not the most high-class Hamburg suburb, over 100 people turn up to hear the SPD, CDU, FDP and GAL candidates.

Welfare Senator Jan Ehlers, a left-wing member of the ruling Social Democrats, has a hard time.

One of his toughest opponents is Frau Kukielka, a 42-year-old grandmother who works as a lecturer and was associated with various Far Left groups before joining the predecessor of today's GAL.

Herr Ehlers, in defending the SPD's track record, refers to "crisis management." His audience are audibly unenthusiastic about the term and Frau Kukielka is clearly not alone in feeling it is an eye-opener on how Social Democrats see people.



Breakthrough into the men's world, reads the slogan. Hamburg GAL candidates. From left, Christina Kukielka, Thea Bock and Ulla Jelpke. (Photo: dpa)

The Christian Democratic speaker has difficulty in answering a query as to the percentage of women members in the Hamburg CDU. Frau Kukielka says she has the figures ready if he really want to know.

Senator Ehlers is in the hot seat, defending the performance of an SPD government with heavy debts and no cash.

Frau Kukielka launches a full-scale, no-holds-barred attack. She has nothing to lose. Her party is certain to be in Opposition for the next four years.

She heads a list of 30 candidates, all women. No male candidates have been nominated by the GAL this time round.

The women-only list has come in for criticism from within GAL ranks, and not only from men.

Yet despite considerable scepticism the all-female list seems, at the time of writing, to have earned respect. Many candidates have local government experience.

Frau Kukielka is a former borough councillor in Eimsbüttel. Her No. 2, Thea Bock, was in the state assembly for the first two years of the current four-year term.

Other candidates were active in ad hoc groups. All have special interests and specialised knowledge. Candidates

Continued on page 6

Bavarian result boosts general election hopes

The Greens did so well in the Bavarian elections last month that their hopes for the general election in January have been given a big boost.

They polled 7.5 per cent in the strongly conservative Deep South and now seem more likely to poll the five per cent needed for parliamentary survival in January.

Lukas Beckmann, spokesman for the "tennis shoe party's" national executive, thinks the Bavarian result has more than just political significance.

Beckmann, a sociologist, says it was a major "cultural breakthrough".

Lethargy had set in at the party's Bonn head office after bad results in the Saar and North Rhine-Westphalia.

State assembly and local government election results in Lower Saxony were also well below expectations, especially after Chernobyl.

The national executive and the parliamentary party had no grounds for jubilation, and the parliamentary party in particular was showing signs of tiredness.

Green MPs in the Bonn Bundestag, most of whom are not opposed to collaboration with the Social Democrats, felt they were marking time.

Their tempting offer of collaboration with the Social Democrats if they emerged from the general election with a combined majority failed to impress either Social Democrats or Greens.

Attempts to wear down Shadow Chancellor Johannes Rau's determined opposition to any idea of a coalition with the Greens failed to make headway.

Individual Green MPs in Bonn cast pride to the winds in, unsuccessful, efforts to enlist SPD support.

They offered Green support for Willy Brandt or Hans-Jochen Vogel as Shadow Chancellor rather than Herr Rau. They even offered not to insist on an immediate nuclear power phase-out.

That was all the work of the realist wing. But it was the fundamentalists on the national executive who capitalised on the Bavarian performance.

They don't like the goodwill shown by some Green MPs toward the Social Democrats. The Bavarian results proved them right, they said.

There had been no question of an SPD-Green coalition in Bavaria. The ruling CSU, led by Premier Franz Josef Strauss, had been certain to retain its absolute majority.

So those who voted Green did so in support of "fundamental" opposition. Otherwise they would have voted SPD.

Rainer Trampert, who ranks alongside Jutta Ditfurth as one of the most outspoken "fundamentalists" on the national executive, even felt the Greens' role in the protest movement was in jeopardy.

He feels Green MPs have grown too tame and established. "I cannot warn too strongly against the assumption that Greens will win elections by no longer taking part in protest rallies," he said.

He has a point: Forty thousand Bavarians who voted Green in 1982 stayed away this time.

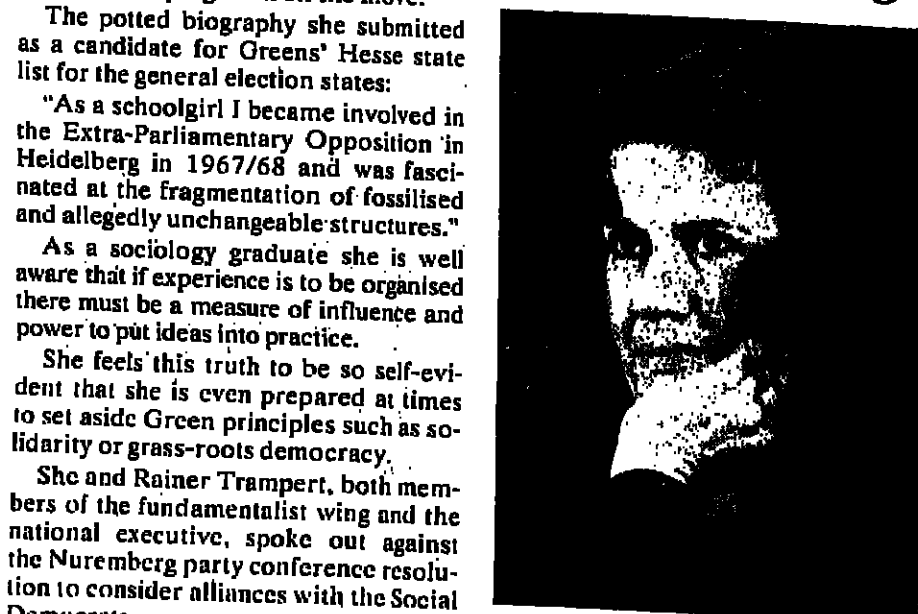
But the closer the Greens mix with radicals in the protest movement, the less they and the SPD are likely to see eye to eye.

It remains to be seen whether Green voters, a majority of whom would like to see an SPD-Green alliance, will strengthen the fundamentalists' hand in January.

Holger Wuchold

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 18 October 1986)

Fears for the future of the fundi wing



Jutta Ditfurth, spokesperson for the Greens' national executive committee, does not see politics first and foremost in terms of Prussian-style worries, burdens or duties.

She sees politics as associated with sensuality and the emotions, with pleasure in triggering social processes and delight at keeping them on the move.

The potted biography she submitted as a candidate for Greens' Hesse state list for the general election states:

"As a schoolgirl I became involved in the Extra-Parliamentary Opposition in Heidelberg in 1967/68 and was fascinated at the fragmentation of fossilised and allegedly unchangeable structures."

As a sociology graduate she is well aware that if experience is to be organised there must be a measure of influence and power to put ideas into practice.

She feels this truth to be so self-evident that she is even prepared at times to set aside Green principles such as solidarity or grass-roots democracy.

She and Rainer Trampert, both members of the fundamentalist wing and the national executive, spoke out against the Nuremberg party conference resolution to consider alliances with the Social Democrats.

As a sitting member of the city council in Frankfurt she also refused to stand down in mid-term and rotate to allow another candidate to take her place.

These are moves that hardly seem to be consistent with her claim not to stand for a Green vanguard, but Frau Ditfurth sees politics as a long-term process.

"Implementation of stable reforms has in history always been the result of a change in social awareness and not of parliamentary equations," she says.



Jutta Ditfurth ... against alliance with SPD. (Photo: Sven Simon)

"It is an illusion to imagine that by adapting to majorities which stand for ideas that are not those of the Greens you can attain majorities for Green ideas."

She adds that: "The Greens have too important a task merely to serve as a face-lift for the Social Democrats."

Her political curriculum vitae lists, on one and a half closely written pages, her activities on behalf of groups, movements, campaigns, alliances, initiatives, working groups and projects.

She was unemployed for two years, doing temporary work in chemical and engineering works, offices, banks and computer firms. She joined the Greens in 1978.

She dissociates herself from the political line taken by the Greens in Hesse — even though the Hesse Greens admire her as a politician.

In Hesse the Greens are in coalition with the Social Democrats. The ruling Greens accuse Frau Ditfurth of a static and doctrinaire outlook.

But they take good care not to dissociate themselves from her, doubtless realising that in Hesse the two wings of the Greens must coexist or perish in the long run.

She takes a far more critical view of the trends that may be inferred from the SPD-Green coalition in Hesse.

In Hesse, she says, the Greens have already done what they set out to do by the terms of their Nuremberg conference resolution: changed from an anti-party party to a middle-class party with a Green touch, a kind of FDP with ecological trimmings.

She fears that fundamentalists and their ilk may increasingly be relegated to the fringe of the party.

That, she feels, would reduce to nil the fundamental freedom to criticise the system to any effect. "We have lost momentum," she fears.

In Hesse the Green Environment

Continued on page 5

■ PERSPECTIVE

The ambivalent relationship: France and the 'mysterious Germans'



Süddeutsche Zeitung

The memory of the 75 years of "traditional enmity" from 1870 to 1945 seems to have receded in significance in French attitudes towards Germany.

During this period, a powerful and aggressive Germany invaded France in three wars.

Surveys in both countries show that the Germans and the French look upon each other as friends.

Although Napoleon's successors emerged as victors from the last two armed encounters France was either drained of its life blood (as in 1918) or humiliated (as in 1945).

Its triumph was achieved in the wake of victories by other powers.

The French fascination for the mysterious and often unfathomable ways of the Germans, however, remains more deeply rooted than the memory of the country's two final victories.

The French have never, or only periodically, been able to cast their *voisins d'outre-Rhin*, their neighbours to the right of the Rhine, in a mould of predictability.

After 1870/71, apparently just one of the dozens of trials of strength accompanying the evolution of European states, Prussian-led Germany emerged as an enemy which twice reached for hegemony in Europe.

Following its victory in 1918 France tried to ensure that the Weimar Republic remained militarily and economically *inferior* — to no avail, as the six-week catastrophe of 1940 showed.

And after the Second World War? The means changed, but not the ends.

In a bold act of great historical significance Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer agreed to turn rivalry into friendship, to seek security with and not against each other.

Treaties of friendship and cultural summits, joint military manoeuvres, and the growing ramifications between ministerial bureaucracies, however, cannot disguise the fact that the official and semi-official France views its new friends with the keen eye of scepticism and recurrent apprehensiveness.

"We are discovering Germany anew," writes Brigitte Sauzay, who has worked for ten years as an interpreter at the Quai d'Orsay for the heads of government and state from both countries.

In her book *Die rätselhaften Deutschen* (The Mysterious Germans) she asks "Should we lose it once again?"

Just a few sentences before raising *this* question she points out that surveys have shown that "the French are aware of the common destiny they share with the Germans. They agree to a marriage of convenience, but without much enthusiasm."

This scepticism can be even more clearly depicted.

Irrespective of the growing intergovernmental ties and economic collaboration between the two countries they have drifted further apart from one another at an equally rapid pace in terms of the emotional and ideological content of their respective major societal issues.

Familiar catchwords in this context range from Pershing 2 to Cattenom and from Chernobyl to "Eco-pacifism".

On the occasion of the Franco-German cultural summit a correspondent of the best-selling left-wing daily newspaper in France *Liberation* diagnosed a "cult of fear in the name of entranced moral claims", which keeps the Germans in suspense.

A stroll through German bookshops, he claimed, seems like a "descent into the vale of tears: almost all book-titles refer to mistrust and fear of natural sciences, of politics and of the future of this planet."

He draws the conclusions that "the extent of the psychoses which regularly haunt this country remains ... a mystery."

These are strong words in view of the fact that the majority of the electorate is represented by a man such as Helmut Kohl, who preaches neither damnation nor redemption and who at most sets out to reach new shores at a very moderate pace.

To dismiss such cutting commentaries by our neighbours as flustered "Gallic gabble", however, does not improve understanding.

After all, French people of *every* political shade have agreed to the "marriage of convenience" with the Germans, since — as opposed to the Weimar Republic — they feel that the twofold Westernisation of their neighbour is safeguarded.

On the one hand, the Federal Republic of Germany is integrated in the alliance with America; on the other, there is an intellectual incorporation in the empirical-cum-rationalist and liberal tradition of the Enlightenment, which first took root (in one part of Germany) after 1945.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the French have been taking a more sensitised look across the Rhine since 1980, ever since they perceived both right-wing and left-wing nationalist tendencies which could shake the political and cultural pillars of the entente.

It is not surprising that the socialist Mitterrand already openly turned his back on his social-democratic colleagues in the SPD in 1983 to call for missile deployment just a few weeks before the Bundestag elections.

And, for this reason, it is not surprising that the first thing Kohl and Mitterrand agreed on during the cultural summit was "close coordination" on security and disarmament policy matters.

The French do not want to "lose the Germans again".

In the interests of their own security they try to ensure the security of the Germans.

In order to prevent a twofold "drifting away" of the Germans France is intensifying its ties to its apparently restless neighbours.

Josef Joffe

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 29 October 1986)

Continued from page 4

Minister constantly has to justify himself and to talk local authorities into accepting sites for toxic waste dumps and garbage incinerators.

Besides, the Greens are almost entirely out of touch with social movements, she claims, pointing to the growing support for autonomous groups in Frankfurt.

The net result of the SPD-Green alliance in Hesse is, as she sees it, that (Social Democratic Premier) "Holger Börner is in a stronger position than ever."

René Troysdorf

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 26 October 1986)

Cooler wind

Continued from page 1

old encrustations has been in vain. Herr Genscher may find an opportunity to clarify matters in talks at the opening session of the third Helsinki review conference in Vienna.

In Moscow there is a tendency to cool off ties between Foreign Ministers. If Mr Shevardnadze, who on the quiet is expected to visit Bonn next spring, takes up with Mr Shultz the thread of talks snapped in Reykjavik while cold-shouldering Herr Genscher, the damage would indeed be substantial.

Serious doubts would need to be cast on whether a sense of proportion had been retained in the choice of political means — and that would apply to the entire business from the outset.

Hans Joachim Deckert

(Bremer Nachrichten, 3 November 1986)

Plea on topic of millions driven west after war

The Second World War was already over when, in autumn 1945, posters were put up on houses and ruins on the other side of the Oder-Neisse Line calling upon the German population there to leave the country.

The posters read as follows: "In the interests of all Germans we call upon the German population to assemble within four days for their voluntary departure to Germany. If this order is not carried out the Germans will be sent to a detention camp."

The wording of this poster discovered in Allenstein (East Prussia) resembles many other documents which the American historian and former assistant at the Göttingen Institute of International Law, Alfred-Maurice de Zajas, presents in an "Annotation to the Expulsion of Germans from the East".

"The expulsion and the crimes committed against the Polish and Russian peoples should not be regarded as a question of crime and atonement," said de Zajas, in an interview with the *Deutsche Presse-Agentur (dpa)*.

"There is no collective guilt of the Germans for the war and no collective guilt of the East Europeans for the expulsion of Germans", he emphasised.

There is, however, "a collective morality and sense of ethics, to which all people should feel committed."

Although de Zajas agrees that this is a very awkward subject he feels that it is the task of historians to shed light on the events which took place during this period of terror for Europe and the world.

"Forty-one years after the war," de Zajas stresses, "there is no need to shy away from certain questions.

"Obscuring or suppressing the problem would then be only politically misused. German history shows us where this can lead." Together with previously unpublished photos of fleeing and dying refugees de Zajas has also published numerous untraceable or unknown documents on the expulsion of twelve million Germans from various regions of Eastern Europe.

"One often gains the impression," says de Zajas, "that the public awareness of the expulsion problem has been buried.

"The millions of ordinary people who were forced to leave their homeland certainly did not view their fate as a liberation, as some people would have us believe.

"Two million people lost their lives during this period, even though the Germans had long since surrendered."

The only reference to a document in the National Archives in Washington, of which researchers only knew that it had been sent "top-secret" to the American government by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, was thought to have been lost.

"I don't know whether it was mistakenly or deliberately hidden in a file," said de Zajas. "But I found it."

For the first time the telegram sent by Eisenhower on 18 October, 1945, is published in de Zajas' book.

It reads as follows: "In Silesia the Polish administration and the methods they use are causing a major flight westwards by the German population.

"Many of those who cannot flee are interned in camps, where there are inadequate rations and poor hygiene.

"There is an extremely high rate of mortality and disease in these camps. 75 per cent of the babies die.

"The methods used by Poland do not comply in any way with the Potsdam Agreement."

In other previously unpublished documents and statements by witnesses there are descriptions of the flight via the Baltic Sea, the bombing of Dresden, the allied resettlement plans and the deporations to the East.

De Zajas, who today works as a jurist for an international organisation in Switzerland, also comments on the verdicts passed by the International Court of Justice at the Nüremberg trials of the Nazi leaders.

"The international military tribunal in Nuremberg condemned the expulsions carried out by the Nazis as war crimes.

"As international law is universally applicable the acts of expulsion against the Germans, measured in terms of the same principles, also represent war crimes and crimes against humanity."

The Potsdam Agreement, de Zajas explains, by no means legalises this expulsion.

The Minister for Intra-German Affairs in Bonn, Heinrich Windelen, welcomes the publication of these hitherto unknown documents in a preface to de Zajas' book (published by Verlag W. Kohlhammer).

He feels that the book continues the "essential discussion on the expulsion problem on a scientific basis."

Werner H. T. Fuhrmann

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 23 October 1986)

■ THE ECONOMY

Just what the doctor ordered, says institutes' pre-election report

Germany's economic upswing will continue in 1987 for the fifth year in succession, says the autumn report of the leading economic research institutes.

But growth is expected to be slower mainly because the effects of lower oil prices and domestic tax cuts will tail off.

For the government, this independent review could hardly have contained better news or have been better timed — the general election is only three months away.

The report is certainly in tune with the Federal government's economic policy. The country's economic performance continues to be splendid in the fifth year since the Christian Democrats regained power in Bonn.

The report reckons that the recovery since 1982 is a result of domestic factors and not a matter of what Opec has done or of luck governed by other external factors.

The report is a further indication that the economy is firmly resolved not to let the government down — certainly not before election day, 25 January.

What the report forecasts for the German economy in the months ahead must have made Christian and Free Democratic election campaign managers jump for joy.

Just in time for the final run-up to the general election, domestic consumption

SüddeutscheZeitung

has emerged as the mainstay of overall economic demand.

The lower cost of energy and raw materials has joined with the first stage of sweeping cuts in personal taxation to ensure that a belated boost in consumer demand is in time to shore up the domestic economy.

Not even the prospect of higher consumer prices reducing the real level of higher earnings is not expected to make any immediate dent in the consumer boom.

So the outlook is virtually ideal for a government seeking re-election.

Yet jubilation in Bonn about the basic points in the report cannot paper over the fact that it contains a clear reminder of the risks at this stage of the economic cycle.

It also underlines latent contradictions in the Bonn government's economic, financial and regulative policies.

Exports are uniformly felt to pose the main hazard to economic development next year.

If German industry were to be put to serious competitive disadvantage, with exchange rates continuing to revalue the deutschemark, the resulting downturn in demand could not be offset by even the most ebullient boom in domestic spending.

The economists who compiled the report are convinced the inevitable decline in exports next year due to the tailing-off of the fillip given by lower oil prices is sure to make its mark on the German economy.

They disagree on where they expect the economy to backfire first and whether the Bundesbank ought then to make even more money available.

The report is jointly compiled by five economic research institutes, and this time two, in Kiel and Berlin, have disagreed with the others to the extent of feeling obliged to cast a minority vote.

This failure to arrive at a common denominator shows how hard the Five found it to agree on growth rate expectations for 1987. There certainly seems to have been massive behind-the-scenes bargaining.

It would surely have been fairer and more honest to dispense at this stage of the proceedings with the fiction of a joint forecast and publish instead the majority and minority figures favoured by the respective institutes.

There are grounds for assuming that the aggregate figure, for 1987 at least, would have been a growth rate forecast of less than three per cent.

The five institutes were, in contrast, largely agreed in their continued disapproval of subsidies and their views on tax reform and further welfare benefits.

Strange to say, they even call into question subsidies related to the dollar exchange rate, such as the coke coal and agricultural subsidies, which the Federal government has hitherto regarded as taboo.

The institutes' views on fiscal policy deserve special mention inasmuch as they no longer merely advocate bringing forward the second stage of the current tax reform programme, at present scheduled for 1988.

They even favour bringing forward the next round of tax cuts planned for later in the term of the next Bundestag and, if need be, at the expense of a temporary increase in the public sector borrowing requirement.

Yet they also sound a sober note, pouring water into what so often is the heady wine of election campaign promises.

Growth, they say, is still so feeble that the emphasis must be on boosting it rather than on upending the cornucopia of fresh welfare handouts in anticipation of brighter prospects ahead.

Gerhard Hennemann

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 21 October 1986)

Autumn assessment
of leading economic research institutes

	1985	1986	1987 (Prediction)
Growth (%)	+2.5	+3	+3
Unemployment (millions)	2.30	2.23	2.12
Price increases (%)	+2.2	-0.5	+1.5

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were selected with a view to competence to speak on a given subject. Merely being a woman was not enough.

In Eidelstedt the women-only GAL slate is given only a brief, initial mention. Frau Kukielka has very little to say on the subject.

"We may be better, we may be worse, we may be just the same as the men," she says.

The Green women's election campaign aims at being both objective and relaxed. Relaxation was the keynote of the inaugural GAL campaign meeting in the Markthalle, where the candidates sang a parody of a local dialect song poking fun at Mayor Dohnanyi.

Adrienne Goehler, the temperamental GAL No. 4 and undoubtedly one of the party's "fresh women," said the time had come for women to deal a blow at the masculine arrogance of power.

The SPD slogan "Dohnanyi for Hamburg, Hamburg for Dohnanyi" was, she said, typical of this arrogance.

The time had come to give such men a lesson: "We simply can't stand them any more," she said, "the 50- to 60-year-olds in their dark suits, inaugurating fitted kitchens, new autobahns and nuclear power stations as though they were one of a kind."

GAL election posters are probably less provocative than they used to be.

But a photo of Michelangelo's David with a Groucho Marx-style spectacles, nose and moustache mask strapped between his thighs by a pair of women's hands gets the message across.

Another features a police helmet descending on a group of people — a reminder of the police round-up of over 800 demonstrators detained in June after a protest rally against Brokdorf nuclear power station.

Even in their own ranks the Greens are far from sure whether anti-nuclear demonstrations will win votes.

Trouble that has occurred in connection with demonstrations has almost always been held against them, and the Greens have found it difficult to deal with violence.

Some Greens still refuse to nail their colours to the mast, arguing that the anti-nuclear movement must not be split.

This attitude has proved problematic outside the party. Its political opponents have been quick to accuse the Greens of siding with violence. The tough catalogue of demands levelled at the SPD and making collaboration of any kind with the Social Democrats virtually impossible may also cost them votes.

Many Green voters would like to see the party join forces with the SPD. By refusing to do so, the GAL could end up being branded as a group perpetually dissatisfied yet politically non-committal.

Yet the party seems sure to be re-elected in Hamburg and may well be returned with a higher share of the vote.

Karsten Plog

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 28 October 1986)

■ OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

Endless struggle of watchdog group to halt public-sector gravy train

An organisation called the Taxpayers' League is dedicated to exposing waste in public-sector spending.

President of the group, Professor Armin Feit, believes public-sector extravagance is one reason why people aren't always honest in declaring tax.

The league compiles examples of careless money management, thoughtless spending, planning errors, construction scandals, overrun costs, extravagant extras, trips and other perquisites at the taxpayers' expense.

The records kept by the Taxpayers' League and the statutory annual reports of Federal and *Land* audit offices might encourage discipline in public spending — but the tale of waste and the fight against it is never ending.

Two years ago, the Taxpayers' League writes in its latest "black paper," the police in Kempten, Bavaria, took over their newly-built garage — and found the driveway was slightly too narrow. Volkswagen transporters — just ordinary vans — couldn't get through.

In Augsburg "historic" cobbles were laid in a city-centre street. Large granite blocks that were no longer needed in Prague were bought from the Czech capital.

Once they were laid, Augsburg people soon realised why the Czechs were glad to have seen the back of them. They were so uneven that people preferred not to use the street at all.

The council decided to have the expensive cobbles ground flat rather than replaced. The wide nicks left between stones were filled with a kind of putty.

This proved no less disastrous — at least for wearers of high-heeled shoes, whose heels regularly sink into the putty and snap or are otherwise ruined.

Munich, the Bavarian capital, spent DM300,000 on printing posters with quotations on peace by Plato, Kant, Rosa Luxemburg and Bertolt Brecht.

The Taxpayers' League has no objections to peace but feels the expense was unjustified.

It seems reasonable to assume that no-one in Munich is *not* in favour of peace, so DM300,000 spent on posters is DM300,000 too much, the "black paper" argues.

The Federal Audit Office has just published its report for 1984. It tells the tale of a new labour exchange building in Hagen, Westphalia.

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

The building is bounded on all sides by deafening decibels of city traffic, so it had to be built fully enclosed and air-conditioned. Other extras were made necessary by the high level of ground water.

These extras totalled DM7.5m, or a seventh of the overall construction cost. That, the audit office says, is too much.

A new labour exchange was built in Hamelin, Lower Saxony. There the Pied Piper of officialdom played his tricks on unsuspecting taxpayers when the site was purchased.

The price paid was DM333 per square metre, that being the official valuation, consisting of DM60 for the land and DM270 for the building.

But the existing building was in effect less than worthless. It had to be demolished because the Labour Office wanted a new building.

So the price paid for the site was four times what the land was worth. Auditors were, of course, told that a suitable alternative site was not available. They weren't buying that one; Hamelin is a fairly small town.

The health insurance scheme for postal workers has been in the throes of computerisation for 10 years, and the end is not yet in sight despite an outlay of DM25m.

The original idea was to save money. That can be quietly shelved, especially as the project has switched horses in mid-stream, as it were, from a central to a decentralised computer system.

If you've ever wondered why postal services are so expensive, you may now no longer be surprised.

The same goes for the armed forces. In Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea a 19th century building was converted into an officers' mess. Tastefully, of course, and good taste has always been expensive.

Walls were panelled in mahogany. Solid mahogany (not just veneer) doors were bought and varnished in the Old English style.

A room partition, a bar counter and a buffet were also ordered in massive mahogany, while the main staircase was fitted out with attractive and no less expensive banisters.

The officers who drink their whisky at the mess bar don't have to foot this particular bill. That is the taxpayer's privilege.

Between 1977 and 1984 the Defence Ministry bought many more truck cabs than it needed. In mid-1984 over 60 per cent were found to be rusting away in sheds at depot.

So much for careful planning. The Ministry has already spent DM6m on rust treatment.

Sad to say, the Bundeswehr even seems to be out of its depth in handling two-stroke engines. Between 1979 and 1983 a multi-grade oil used in two-stroke engines caused considerable engine damage.

One Defence Ministry department had long been aware that the oil in question was unsuitable for use in two-stroke engines. Another department was blissfully ignorant of the fact. So much for service communications.

The Ministry does not dispute the engine damage. It refers instead to engine tests carried out by two manufacturers in 1979/80.

The audit office is not buying this excuse either. The tests in question were carried out, but the multi-grade oil that did the damage was not used in them.

The inland revenue, next on the list of public service departments checked by the auditors, was found to have been unexpectedly lenient in its treatment of houseowners.

The problem was that of the estimated rental value of family homes. Mortgage relief and depreciation allowances are only provided after taxable earnings have been topped up by nominal rent.

The idea is that houseowners are taxed on the rent they might otherwise have paid before being allowed mortage relief and other tax breaks on the homes they own.

Taxmen might be expected to assess nominal rents at as high a level as possible. Otherwise houseowners would derive unwarrantedly high tax benefits.

At four inland revenue offices a sample of 150 homeowning taxpayers was checked. Rent assessments were found to be far too low: well below comparable market rents and often below the rents charged in rent-subsidised housing.

Ninety-one cases were examined in detail. Low rent assessments for tax purposes were found to have totalled about DM1.7m each in 1980 and 1981.

The net loss to the inland revenue was about 40 per cent of this total. We all know the truism that the rich grow richer, but the taxman is surely an unlikely ally in this particular game of hide and seek.

Audit office reports need *not* have any consequences, but there are occasions when they prove effective. Some shortcomings that might otherwise continue for ever are rectified.

Administrative procedure would have perpetuated unnecessary costs if the following case had not been unearthed by the government auditors:

A hospital run by a *Land* government provided both hospital care and water cures for the war-wounded. Water cure costs are met by the Federal government.

Federal government auditors found to their surprise that the *Land* charged identical rates for both courses of treatment even though water cures were in reality far less expensive than conventional hospital treatment.

The audit office advised the Federal Labour Ministry to negotiate more favourable rates with the *Land* in question. It did, saving DM2.5m last year, with more to come.

Old arguments

Audit office criticism has even been known to spike the guns of applicants for government subsidies.

For several years the Federal Economic Affairs Ministry ploughed over DM56m into the development of a non-military helicopter.

Then the inevitable happened. An application was made for a further DM35.4m in subsidies.

The old arguments were trundled out. Exacting standards were said to be crucial. The aerospace industry was said to be vital to the German economy.

But the auditors felt the application was unjustified. It was not a new design but an existing design that was to be adapted to changing market requirements.

The Ministry agreed. The application was refused. Which is just as it should be. We can all be grateful for every million that is snatched from the jaws of public sector waste.

Paul Bellinghausen

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 24 October 1986)

■ PEOPLE IN BUSINESS

Death of a Siemens recalls new-fangled electric light

Hermann von Siemens, grandson of the founder of the Siemens empire, has died in Munich at the age of 101.

His life straddled enormous changes: he grew up in Siemens' early years when the firm's products, electric trams and electric street lighting were putting the new power source on the map.

SüddeutscheZeitung

At his death, Siemens had become a leader in new-fangled things like nuclear power, computers, household electrical products, microchips and digital communications.

His life was closely linked with the rise of Werner Siemens, founder of the organisation, who was given the title "von".

Siemens grew and grew until today it employs 350,000 and has sales worldwide of DM50bn.

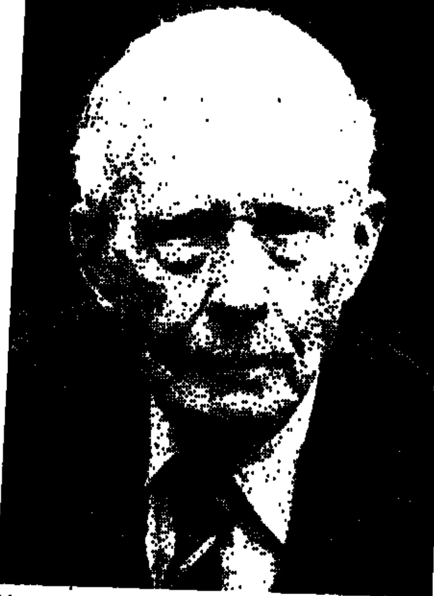
Hermann von Siemens studied chemistry. He joined the original firm, Siemens & Halske, in 1918. In 1928 he was appointed to the executive board. In 1941, he became the firm's chairman.

During his time on the board, telex communications were developed worldwide. It is the extension of this technology that forms the basis of the Siemens communications systems today.

His time as chairman, after the death of Carl Friedrich von Siemens, last until 1956. This era saw the company devastated by war and rebuilt.

Siemens lost 80 per cent of its plant in the war and, afterwards, moved its headquarters from Berlin to Munich when it became likely that Germany would be divided. . .

Hermann von Siemens expanded the group from a war-shocked workforce of



Hermann von Siemens . . . guided post-war recovery. (Photo: Sven Simon)

37,000 in 1946 to 166,000 in 1956, his last year as chairman.

In the war, he headed an industrial organisation. After the war, he was jailed for a short time, but was quickly released.

Since 1968 he has been an honorary member of the supervisory board.

Hermann von Siemens was also the grandson of the famous physicist Hermann von Helmholtz, who did much to promote scientific research and development.

For his contributions to science and technology Hermann von Siemens was given honorary doctorates by the technical universities in Munich and Berlin. He also held honoary doctorates in philosophy and engineering

He did much to promote technical progress, for it was technology that fascinated him most, rather than management.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 15 October 1986)

60 years with mail-order firm

Grete Schickedanz, executive board chairwoman of the Quelle Gustav Schickedanz mail order firm, has just celebrated her 75th birthday.

She is a major shareholder of Gustav und Grete Schickedanz Holding KG, and chairwoman of the administrative board of the Quelle trading group.

Last year the holding company, that employs 39,600, had sales of DM10.5bn.

In 1927 when she was 15, Grete Lachner joined the trading company Gustav Schickedanz as a trainee. In 1942 she married Gustav Schickedanz.

In the same year that she joined the



Grete Schickedanz . . . you want it, we'll send it. (Photo: Quelle)

Gustav Schickedanz company the mail order firm of Quelle was founded.

By 1939 Quelle had more than two million customers and a turnover of 40 million Reichsmarks. The company was one of the foremost, pre-war mail-order houses.

At the beginning of 1943 Quelle was destroyed in a bombing raid, but three years later Grete Schickedanz opened a small clothing shop in Hersbruck, near Nuremberg. This was the first step to rebuilding the company.

With her husband, who died in 1977, she built up her company to its present leading position among European mail-order houses.

Quelle is the nucleus of Schickedanz Holding, which includes under its wing Schöpflin, the chain of furniture shops Hess and industrial companies such as Vereinigte Papierwerke and the Patrizier brewery.

On 1 February next year Grete Schickedanz will hand over the chairmanship of the mail-order house to Klaus Zumwinkel.

She has been honoured for her business achievements and social work at home and abroad.

dpa/vwd

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 18 October 1986)

Porcelain industrialist battles for worker participation

Porcelain manufacturer Philip Rosenthal is a reformer. He is an advocate of worker participation in share capital and co-determination.

Rosenthal, who last month turned 70, once said: "You can only be a reformer if you have seen the world from the bottom of the pile. Except, that is, if you have not forgotten what it was like down there or never learned anything."

Rosenthal was born in Berlin and in 1950 joined the firm his father had founded, Rosenthal AG, as head of the advertising department. Later he took over production and marketing.

From 1958 until 1981 he was chairman of the executive board and since 1981 chairman of the supervisory board.

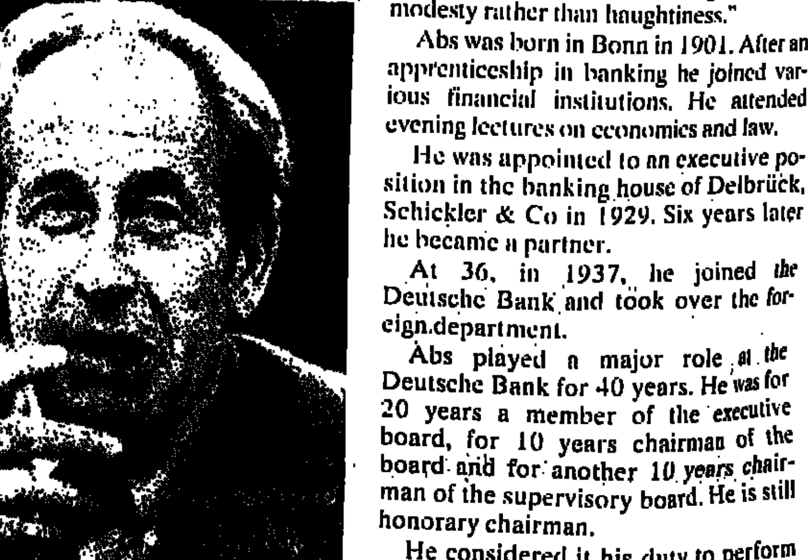
His commitment to co-determination and worker share-capital participation were why he joined the SPD in 1968. He was elected to the Bundestag, where he served for 13 years.

He was parliamentary under-secretary under Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller, but only for 13 months. In 1971 he resigned because legislation for worker participation in company-ownership was not moving fast enough.

He introduced his ideas into his own company in 1963. Now the workforce of Rosenthal AG holds 10 per cent of the company's equity.

Rosenthal said: "Money only brings lasting happiness if it helps you on and others."





Philip Rosenthal . . . life best learned from the bottom up.' (Photo: Sven Simon)

Rosenthal does not look his 70 years. He takes a lot of exercise; five times a week he runs 3,000 metres, swims 600 metres or puts in 5,000 metres of rowing.

Whether in a rowing boat or in hiking boots, over the last 23 years he has covered 9,600 kilometres, from Selb to Oxford, through the Mediterranean into the Black Sea and to the Danube.

Next year he hopes to close the gaps in his travels between the Romanian and Russian borders and the Danube estuary.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 22 October 1986)

Hermann Josef Abs . . . It's always best to keep calm. (Photo: Sven Simon)

The banker who gave Germany back its credit

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The banker who in the early 1950s headed the West German delegation to London to settle the issue of the country's foreign debt, Hermann Josef Abs, has turned 85.

His efforts as head of the delegation went a long way towards restoring foreign confidence in this country.

In 1948, Abs helped set up the Reconstruction Loan Corporation, which channels public money to Third World countries.

He regards calmness as a virtue. "Calmness," he said, "does not make if more difficult to solve problems with steadfastness and firmness rather than harshness; with moderation rather than arrogance; with modesty rather than haughtiness."

Abs was born in Bonn in 1901. After an apprenticeship in banking he joined various financial institutions. He attended evening lectures on economics and law.

He was appointed to an executive position in the banking house of Delbrück, Schickler & Co in 1929. Six years later he became a partner.

At 36, in 1937, he joined the Deutsche Bank and took over the foreign department.

Abs played a major role at the Deutsche Bank for 40 years. He was for 20 years a member of the executive board, for 10 years chairman of the board and for another 10 years chairman of the supervisory board. He is still honorary chairman.

He considered it his duty to perform public services. This did not mean that he strove for political position or honours, but he was always available to advise the government.

In 1948 he helped set up the Reconstruction Loan Corporation and then he went to London with the German delegation.

In later years he used his many and varied foreign contacts for the government. Several times, he acted both officially and unofficially for Bonn.

On the occasion of his 85th birthday, David Rockefeller described Abs as "the world's leading banker."

Peter Roller

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 14 October 1986)

■ THE FOOD INDUSTRY

Museum to show life before the apple-cart was upset

It has been a good year for apple growers in the Rhenish orchard country. Growers were badly hit by frost in the 1984-85 winter but not in 1985-86.

This year has been a record-breaker for both quality and quantity.

Quantity is, of course, a mixed blessing for all but families with just a couple of fruit trees at the bottom of their garden.

There have already been newspaper reports of best table apples being ploughed under. But the 300,000 tonnes "withdrawn from the market" to shore up prices were grown in France and Italy.

Both are mass producers of fruit. Local Rhenish apples have luckily not been ploughed under.

Today's apple trees are a far cry from the days when we shinned up the next-door neighbour's trees as children.

Today's pint-sized trees would hardly bear the weight of a three-year-old, but even a three-year-old would hardly need to bother trying to shin his way up.

Trees stand in serried ranks with fruit hanging so low that a tiny tot could barely fail in the bid to help himself to an apple or two.

Even adults no longer need to reach higher than 2.50 metres (a little over 8ft). That's as high as the tallest branches go nowadays (and where the first branches used to extend from the trunk years ago).

Each pint-sized tree grows about 40 big red apples. They are so heavy that the trunk needs a stake for support. But the advantages for fruit-growers are self-evident. Higher yields are more easily picked.

Today's stunted fruit trees are biological hybrids. Apples of all kinds — Pippins, Boskops or Jonathans — grow on branches grafted onto a dwarf tree known as M 9, the name given to it by a British biologist.

A telltale thickening of the trunk just above the ground shows where the tree was grafted on to M 9 roots.

"This sort of thing has been done for centuries," says a woman scientist at the Cologne agricultural research establishment's model orchard in Auweiler.

Grafts and transplants are the only way in which desirable properties can be reliably transmitted from one tree to another.

The bright red apples that have lately sold so well are largely the product of cross-breeding. In nature they may occur by chance. Breeders are quick to test and grow them in bulk.

Boskop apples used to be a mottled green, and arguably russet, but not the hybrid red that is now widely available.

High-yield apples with custom-built genes can also be bred to mature faster. In nature, trees don't bear fruit until they are eight or ten years old; the latest varieties bear fruit in their second or third season at the latest.

Growers use the simplest of subterfuges, dangling a concrete weight from shoots that head skyward and pulling them sideways (only lateral branches bear fruit).

The taste is said not to suffer as a result of these techniques. "A large fruit well exposed to sunlight will always taste better than a small one grown in the shadow of an old tree," says Gustav Engel.

He is head of the experimental orchard at Klein-Altendorf, near Rheinbach, a unit of Bonn University faculty of agriculture.

Like other fruit-growers, he stresses the changes apple-growing has undergone in recent years. Far less weedkiller and fertiliser are used than not long ago.

Lush greenery grows once more between rows of trees that used to be kept strictly weeded.

"It was unnatural, really," Engel now says. The grass, when cut, usually makes artificial fertiliser unnecessary.

Herbicides are still spread, but only in the immediate vicinity of the trunk. If weeds weren't kept at bay there, the stunted trees might not grow at all.

With these techniques, developed in years of research and discussion on environmental protection and biodynamic farming, a high yield is almost inevitable when the weather is as good as it has been this season.

About 800 fruit-growers in the Rhineland will soon have picked 43,000 tonnes of apples. The Rhineland is the third-largest orchard area in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Larger areas are along the Lower Elbe and by the shores of Lake Constance.

The season isn't over once apples have been picked. Modern storage techniques help to extend the season and boost growers' earnings.

About a fifth of the Meckenheim yield is stored in a gigantic refrigerated warehouse in Roisdorf. Temperature and atmosphere (low-oxygen, low-nitrogen) are electronically controlled in a dozen storerooms, bringing natural ageing almost to a standstill.

This "controlled atmosphere" helps to keep Rhenish apples available fresh until May.

For those who regret the passing of the old apple trees of their childhood a museum orchard is soon to be set up on an estate near Cologne. Fruit will there be grown on the original branches, trunks and roots — at least for museum visitors.

Günter Otten

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 27 October 1986)

Taste swings to darker bread

West Germans are eating more bread again, and they prefer darker, wholegrain varieties. They consume 77kg a year, up two per cent, eating almost as much bread as meat.

This point was made in Mollenfelde, near Göttingen, at the European Bread Museum by curator Wilfried Seibel.

The museum was set up 15 years ago on the basis of a private collection built up by bakery historian Otto Kunkel.

Professor Seibel said this year's foodgrain harvest showed very little trace of Chernobyl contamination.

Wheat had an average radiation count of five, rye of 10 becquerels. The danger limit was 600 becquerels.

The number of bakers is still on the decline: from 30,000 in 1975 to 25,000 today.

The output of these family bakers is joined by that of about 200 bread factories.

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 15 October 1986)



Orchardist with new breed of little apple tree. (Photo: Max Malsch)

Geiger counting supersedes calorie counting

Calorie-counting, once all the rage among the diet-conscious, has been joined by geiger-counting in the wake of the Chernobyl reactor catastrophe.

Calories and joules are accompanied by curies and becquerels in some diet sheets.

An independent environmental research institute in Garching, near Munich, caters for post-Chernobyl demand by adding caesium 134 and 137 counts to a dozen diet plans.

So the radiation-conscious dieter can now be sure of, say, 2,116 calories a day and a maximum daily exposure level of three becquerels.

The diet was monitored by a local energy and environment bureau and a Munich University scientist who found that contaminated food is still being sold.

So the institute has drawn up four alternative menus guaranteed to represent a low-radiation diet.

A seven-day diet was devised using caesium counts recorded in June and July. The maximum conceivable radiation exposure during the week's diet is said to be a little over 3,300 becquerels.

Dieters who prefer to be more strictly vegetarian and cut down their consumption of dairy products can reduce their radiation exposure to between 3 and 14 becquerels a day, it is claimed.

The low-radiation breakfast consists of a pear, porridge oats, sugar and low-fat powdered milk from pre-Chernobyl stocks.

For low-radiation elevenses the plan recommends a mug of cocoa, also using 1985 dried milk, and a roll with butter and apple jelly.

Low-radiation lunch is a vegetable risotto using wholegrain rice, fresh red peppers, carrots, onions and bacon and canned peas and beans.

A glass of grape juice is the dessert, with fresh grapes as an afternoon snack.

The low-radiation evening meal is a salad made up of soya bean shoots and canned maize, processed cheese on two slices of wholemeal rye bread and a cup of tea.

The day's diet totals 2,116.1 calories and, on average, one becquerel (and at most three).

dpa

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 16 October 1986)

■ **FILMS**

Juxtaposing over Bolivian jungle in a hang glider

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The German film industry would be in a sorry state if it were not for television and the cash it supplies for productions.

At this year's Hof Film Festival, celebrating its 20th anniversary, the films were very much television-oriented, although there were signs that the film-makers did have the cinema at the back of their minds.

This year, as so often in the past, directors who could not be present sent a few cuts from their current work instead of words of greeting. This year Herbert Achternbusch contributed a few witty scenes from Turkey.

The festival was opened with *Der wilde Clown* by Josef Rödl, a film-maker from the Upper Palatinate who has regularly contributed since his first film was shown in Hof in 1976.

Heinz Badewitz, founder and director of the festival, said that in this anniversary year, the festival format would remain unchanged.

The programme this year was made up of 56 short and full-length films, screened over four days with the usual few last-minute additions.

Hof, however, also highlights directors. Film-makers whose first works were shown here keep on coming back.

A glance at the catalogue index this year, listing all the films screened at Hof since 1967, shows how loyal directors have been. It also shows that the organisers of the festival have been shrewd about new film-makers, particularly young German directors.

Hof is always full of surprises. Last year it was Doris Dörrie's *Männer*, made for the Second Television Channel and launched as a successful film for the cinema.

There has been no equivalent this year, although *Der Flieger* (The Flyer) by Erwin Keusch was well praised and should do well on the cinema circuit.

Keusch tells the tale of a young man who goes hang-gliding in the hills surrounding Coburg.

He dreams of being able to hang-glide from a 5,000 metre-high mountain over the jungles of Bolivia.

With wit and verve Keusch juxtaposes provincial narrowness and dreams with a sense for great adventure in which the existence of the dreams is far more important than realising them.

Der Flieger is a modest film, but Josef Rödl's *Der wilde Clown* and Dörrie's *Paradies* were supposed to be important. Both seemed to me to fail albeit in an interesting manner.

In his satirical comedy Rödl tries to describe his homeland as a devastated landscape (or region of the soul) between the East-West power blocs. Sunnyi Melles, who also stars in *Paradies*, has the leading role in *Der wilde Clown* with Sigi Zimmerschied.

Doris Dörrie, after her enormous success in comedy, turns to a lover-story, a man between two women in her film. The star from *Männer*, Heiner Lauterbach, is the man between two women, Sunnyi Melles and Katharina Thalbach.

The film is well acted but gets lost in the labyrinth involving the three. Significantly the working title for the film was originally *Labyrinth*.

It will have difficulty following-up the success of *Männer*, but which German film does not have a difficult time achieving success?

Doris Dörrie is courageous and does not let herself fall into a tried and tested groove.

Hof is traditionally a show-place for apprentice works by students from film colleges. The only film of this type at this year's Festival was from Munich, *Fotofinish* by Sönke Wortmann.

With humour it tells the short tale of a gambler who wants to make easy money from an exclusive picture he has of a catastrophe.

The shortest film comes from another student, Canadian Ken Lidster from the London Film and Television School. His contribution, *Bee Movie*, was 90 seconds long and dealt with a bee's love life.

In the past Hof has presented short productions from independent directors, for example new British films or from young American directors.

Many directors who later achieve fame, from Brian de Palma to John Cassavetes, from Monte Hellman, John Sayles to the Canadian David Cronenberg, were discovered at Hof.

Two years ago the spotlight fell on Australian director Paul Cox. This year his work is again highlighted with *Cactus*.

Isabelle Huppert plays a French girl who gradually goes blind after an accident. In her love-affair with a blind young man she discovers a new way of seeing.

Cactus is not melodrama but a gentle, cautious film about sight, beyond awareness of the internal and external world, a film that is dominated by Isabelle Huppert.

Hof's retrospective was this year devoted to the American actress and director Lee Grant. Ten years ago she won an Oscar for her role in Hal Ashby's *Shampoo*. Before that she had spent 12 years unemployed in Hollywood's blacklist wilderness because of her alleged left-wing sympathies.

Lee Grant is a brilliant actress and her talent was displayed to its full in *The Landlord*, made in 1970 with Hal Ashby, and *Neon Ceiling* of the following year made by Frank Pierson.



Doris Dörrie . . . riding high. (Photo: dpa)

Most film-goers to the Hof Festival discovered a new aspect of Lee Grant's work, Lee Grant as a documentary film-maker.

Her latest documentary was shown, *Down and out in America*, that hopefully a West German television station will dare to screen.

The film gives a glimpse of the most fervent supporters of the American Dream and who are at the same time symbolic figures in American life — American farmers.

American farmers are the victims of the Reagan administration's economic policies. They now find themselves at the bottom end of the social scale and they are losing their land.

Her previous documentary, made three years ago, took a look at women in prison who had killed.

Grant cautiously enquired about situations of despair that triggered off desperate actions. In this film she kept the social context constantly in mind.

Seeing her in Hof it was hard to believe she was born in 1926.

Perhaps the only trend that emerged from Hof was that the younger generation of directors do not give much thought to social matters. They are not interested in the social situation, and their protagonists are much more interested in an individual search for individual happiness.

Then there are films dealing with the other side of this coin, individuals who destroy others.

This is the case in the film version of Ingeborg Bachmann's *Der Fall Franza* (The Franza case) made by Xaver Schwarzenberg with Elisabeth Trissenaar the victim of Armin Mueller-Stahl.

Directors David Lynch and Neil Jordan, who have brought the most films to

Continued on page 15



Professor's peccadillo: Heiner Lauterbach and Katharina Thalbach compare notes down on the Reeperbahn in *Paradies*. (Photo: Delta)

Professor and prostitute: a winning act

Doris Dörrie has been awarded the prize at the Hof Film Festival for her latest production, *Paradies*. Dörrie, 31, who lives in Munich, is regarded as one of the best directors in West Germany. Her film, *Männer*, had its its premiere at Hof last year and went on to become a tremendous box-office success.

Doris Dörrie's success as a director is such that, unlike so many German film-makers, she doesn't have to chase after finance.

The success of *Männer* is still with her. Her next film, *Paradies*, is now ready to go on the circuit.

This is a triangular story of two women and a man. He loves the one and is married to the other.

Viktor, played by Heiner Lauterbach, is a respectable zoology professor. His wife Angelika, played by Sunnyi Melles, is a decidedly good wife.

They live in a flat furnished in the super-modern style in a respectable district. But married life is not going well.

The professor loves his work and prefers to sleep alone in his study rather than with his long-legged, sex-hungry wife.

So she decides to help him into an affair. Which is where her prostitute friend Lotte, played by Katharina Thalbach, comes in.

But, surprise, surprise, things do not turn out quite as expected. The professor is not merely prodded into action; he begins to smoulder with a passion for Lotte.

He follows her down to the Reeperbahn, Hamburg's principle red-light area, and tries to lure her away from her clients.

At first Lotte plays it cool. But Viktor refuses to relent. His wife tries to make him come back, but to no avail.

What began as something quite harmless gets more and more lunatic. Love is never commonsensical, so the affair cannot have a happy ending; it must finish badly.

There is much in *Paradies* that calls to mind Doris Dörrie's *Mitten ins Herz*, which also dealt with a mad amour by mixing elements of comedy and drama.

But what was aesthetically interesting in the previous film is in *Paradies* drained dry; it so lacks wit and humour and the characters are so stereotyped.

Sunnyi Melles has to act melodramatically the hysterically jealous wife for so long that in the end she is unconvincing.

Her husband helplessly stumbles through the Reeperbahn and, in the courtyard where contact with the prostitutes is made, he remains hopelessly the professor.

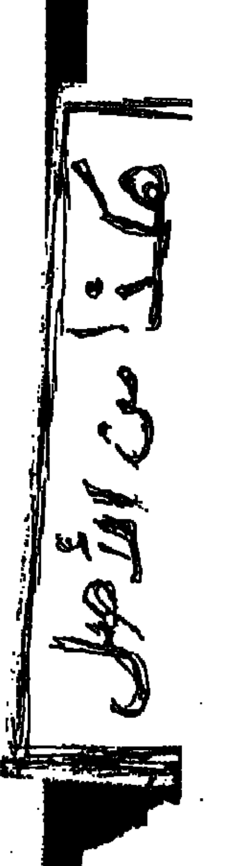
Thalbach is also unable to bring the right touch to this tragi-comedy, to breath a breathe of deeper significance into the joke.

There is a close connection at the beginning and the end to Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Lotte quotes from this novella that equally describes a world (Conrad's experiences in the Belgian Congo Free State) of chaos and horror.

The literary connection remains in the foreground in Dörrie's film. There are many quotes in it that manage to pull it through with difficulty. It is also episodic and uneven so that it certainly does not get "to the heart of the matter" alluded to in the title.

Klaus Reitz

(Mannheimer Morgen, 24 October 1986)



■ **THE THEATRE**

Post-Chernobyl, post-disaster and a touch of Brave New World

Allgemeine Zeitung MAINZ

Over 20 German-language theatres plan to stage Harald Mueller's *Totenfloß* (Raft of the Dead) — as though it had already been chosen the play of the season.

If that were really the case, it would augur ill for the season.

The three simultaneous German-language premieres, in Düsseldorf, Stuttgart and Basle, were certainly far from encouraging.

In the opening scene Itai, tied up in a plastic bag, is thrown out of an inhabited area into the surrounding contaminated zone, where he is welcomed by Checker.

Checker has stolen a map of the contaminated Federal Republic (it is 2050 AD and a nuclear catastrophe has happened).

He hopes to make his way through the contaminated zone to Xanten on the Rhine, where he feels there is uncontaminated territory that is not inhabited (and fortified).

He rides on poor, weak Itai's back as they wade through contaminated sludge to the Rhine.

En route they meet Kuckuck, an old man who serves as a guide for Itai, who has gone blind, and Bjuti, a young girl with whom Checker and Itai fall in love.

The foursome struggle through to the Rhine and float downstream on a raft, past contaminated Mannheim and a bomb crater that once was Mainz, toward Xanten.

They find time for reflection and end-of-the-world love stories, episodes in which damaged life invariably holds pride of place.

When they reach Xanten they are in for a rude awakening. Soldiers aim and fire at them, pariahs that they are, as they try to scale the banks of the river.

The pedagogically raised index finger and the ever-present desire for effect are detrimental to the conviction carried by a play that undeniably has a point to make in the post-Chernobyl world.

Garish effects constantly call to mind the posturing of Expressionist drama.

Bjuti's romantic reminiscences, combined with ideas borrowed from well-known negative utopias such as 1984, Brave New World, Fahrenheit 451 and Clockwork Orange, achieve an eclecticism that falls short of dramatic effect.

In the post-Brecht era such a straight warning sounds naive and dated.

In the Düsseldorf production the play ends on a note different to that of Mueller's original version. There is a ritual murder, with Kuckuck as the victim.

He has to die because he did nothing to try and stop the imminent catastrophe before it was too late.

This king-sized index finger raised in warning was echoed by one Düsseldorf first-nighter who said, after the applause calmed down, the audience ought not to have applauded because the message was one of warning.

Michael Braun's Düsseldorf production aims in other ways at garish effects and at the contrasts that are left to their own devices in the playwright's text.

The young Düsseldorf director aims to strike a note of horror when he has Checker strip the skin off Itai's back to rid him of his biological programme and so free him.

After being skinned alive Itai is able to ask forbidden questions, such as why it all had to happen.

The most powerful scene of this kind is the one in which Bjuti has a miscarriage and finds herself holding a handful of contaminated flesh in her hands that slowly disintegrates into its gory constituents and drips on to the ground.

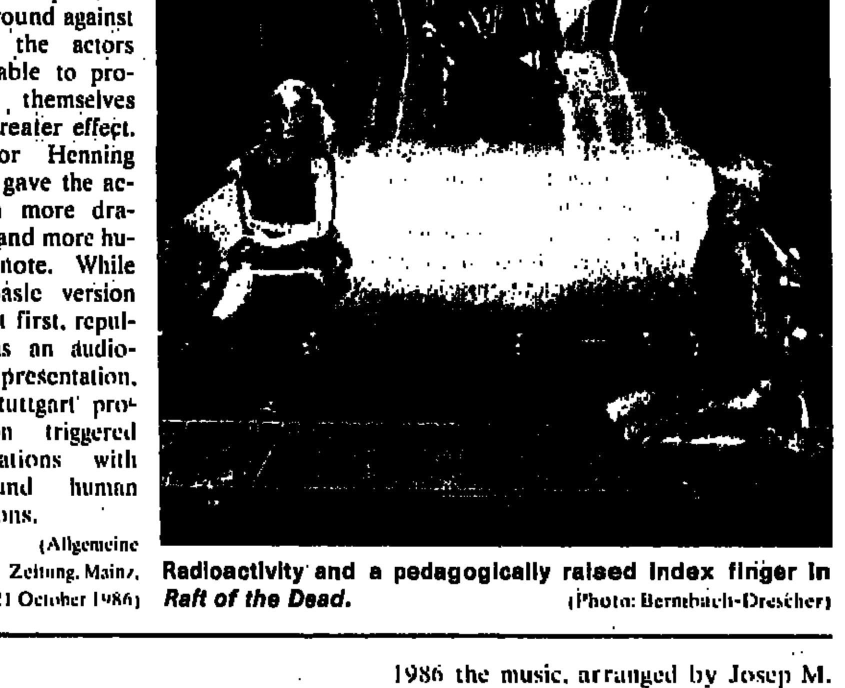
The Basle premiere, directed by Herbert Mueller from the GDR, staged playwright Mueller's vision of Armageddon more drily and soberly.

Some links were hard to grasp in the brutally horrifying sets designed by Heiko Zolchow, while the curt and truncated character of the dialogues made what happened seem decidedly inhuman.

One advantage of the Basle version was that the kitschily poetic finale was stripped down to a few sentences.

In Stuttgart set designer Mathias Fischer-Dieskau based a disagreeable yet more attractive set on naked corpses, a background against which the actors were able to project themselves with greater effect. Director Henning Rühle gave the action a more dramatic and more human note. While the Basle version was, at first, repulsive as an audio-visual presentation, the Stuttgart production triggered associations with profound human emotions.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 21 October 1986)



Radioactivity and a pedagogically raised index finger in *Raft of the Dead*. (Photo: Bernbach-Drescher)

AIDS-ridden Don Juan, a meany from Barcelona's docklands

First-nighters at Jérôme Savary's new revue, the Don Juan Tango, in the Deutsches Schauspielhaus, Hamburg, were more vocal than they had been for some time in voicing both pleasure and disapproval.

Rhythmic applause competed with waves of booing, as befitted the ambivalent impression made by the world premiere of five scenes of the sexual excess and journey to hell of an Aids-ravaged Don Juan.

Savary, the wild and at times awful theatrical wizard from France, has joined forces with his Catalan co-author Quim Monzó in shamelessly demolishing the myth of Don Juan the irresistible lover.

They revert to vulgar, popular versions of the material performed in the streets of Spain long before the well-known stage versions and Mozart's opera.

They also transpose Don Juan to the present day. No longer the scion of a noble family, he is a mean macho in the docklands of Barcelona. Not for him the art of seduction in all its charm and imaginative power; he is out for grabs at any blouse or up any skirt within reach. Yet both society ladies and street-walkers fall for him like ninepins, presumably because he has earned a fortune by dealing in cocaine. Money and drugs tend, after all, to have a sensual effect. The tale begins on All Souls' Day — and Don Juan Day — 1959 outside a dockland bar. Juan, his mate Sganarelle and their girls dance the tango. The melody frequently recurs, oozing with sexual connotations. Between 1964 and 1986 the music, arranged by Josep M. Duran, features rock 'n roll, hippie tunes from *Hair* and schmaltzy light opera refrains — delightfully parodied and paraphrased.

Bums, tits, tangos and any skirt within reach. In *The Don Juan Tango*. (Photo: Peter Peitsch)

This bold musical collage, whimsically played on guitars, the accordeon and the piano, is fun. The gratifyingly uninhibited Spanish dancers, singers and actors accompany it at times provocatively, at times amusingly.

They sing briskly, although the power of their voices varies.

The naively amusing, moving stage sets and many colourful costumes, ranging from barmaids and tourists via guru, flower children and torero to golem and vampire ballet, earned well-deserved laughter and applause.

The Catalan dialogues are virtually incomprehensible, but that hardly detracts from the overall effect of the joint production performed by the young Barcelona company and Savary's own company from Lyon.

Everyone knows the characters and the tale that is told. Besides, the director has geared the musical potpourri to optical effects, which are many and surprising.

But he tries to achieve everything at once: show and melodrama, acrobatics

Mannheimer MORGEN

and action, the daemonic and the parody.

The "partisan of total theatre," as Savary likes to style himself, had in mind a persiflage of sexual morals in the second half of the 20th century.

He coldbloodedly roots out the merest suspicion of any claim to literary merit.

In his unashamed delight at bums, tits and tangos, crowned by dancers bearing a bright red gigantic phallus, he at times comes close to the girlie stage revue or blue movie.

His Don Juan Tango even descends to the level of cheap-thrill suburban stage he seeks to make fun of.

Hans Berndt

(Mannheimer Morgen, 20 October 1986)

■ MEDICINE

Doubts cast on established methods of treating shock

DIE WELT

Shock, triggering a sudden circulatory collapse, can be a killer. It was the subject of an international symposium held in Munich in mid-October.

Shock can of course be caused by many other factors, such as loss of blood, a heart attack, infection, burns or allergies.

Yet the symptoms are fairly uniform: low blood pressure, racing pulse, cold and chalk-white skin and, in extreme cases, unconsciousness.

These are merely the outward symptoms. Changes not immediately "visible" to either doctor or patient are more important, determining the patient's further progress.

In all forms of shock, functional changes occur in the capillaries, the body's smallest blood vessels, and in adjacent cells, upsetting the balance of their mutual relationship.

These changes have long been neglected by medical research because they are extremely difficult to measure in the human body.

But the importance of balance in this microscopically small world is now acknowledged.

Latest research findings were presented and discussed, with views widely differing, at the Munich symposium on Shock — Current Line, Mediators, Cell.

Shock is a complaint characterised, regardless of its cause, by an acute reduction in blood circulation.

The flow of blood supplies body cells with oxygen, nutrients and other agents. It also disposes of the end-products of cell metabolism.

A reduction in blood flow, or circulation, seriously upsets the process. Cells starved of oxygen are "asphyxiated" and dead cells release a wide range of toxic agents that inundate the entire organism.

The problems research scientists face were outlined by Professor Peter Gaehtgens from Berlin.

The findings of experimental shock research so far, he said, related solely to changes in certain parts of the body, such as skeletal muscles.

Little or nothing was known about how the various functional shortfalls in individual organs affect the organism as a whole.

For research purposes the shock was mainly triggered by loss of blood or by artificial lowering of blood pressure. No attention was paid to the many other factors that could cause it.

Experiments were also carried out over a strictly limited period of time and under the influence of anaesthetics, making it problematic to assume that findings might be valid in general practice.

The more harmful substances are released, the worse the course of the complaint is likely to be.

Professor H. Fritz of Munich told the symposium that the elastase count (elastase is a protein-splitting ferment in the pancreas) had proved a useful early warning of shock triggered by bacterial infection.

The higher the elastase count in the blood, the likelier the patient is to suffer from shock even though his or her condition might not otherwise indicate the likelihood.

This early warning system is faster than conventional laboratory tests.

Genetic engineering has devised an effective antidote, Eglin, to eliminate the harmful effect of elastase. But the drug is not yet available in quantities sufficient for everyday hospital use.

In response to shock the body produces stress hormones, catecholamins, that boost blood pressure and accelerate heartbeat via so-called alpha and beta receptors at various points in the body.

The body tries in this way to redress the balance. Emergency medics have for years harnessed the principle, using catecholamins as drugs in cases where treatment is a matter of life or death.

But a number of findings now indicate that the treatment may not be as invariably suitable for use in cases of shock as had been felt.

Professor D. H. Lewis of Linköping University Hospital, Sweden, has measured the body output of catecholamins by patients suffering from shock as a result of bacterial infection.

At the onset of the crisis he found concentrations to be unusually high, gradually subsiding to normal levels. Patients whose blood catecholamin counts remained high for any length of time died as a result.

This phenomenon has yet to be satisfactorily explained. All that can be said for sure is that cell receptors are functionally disturbed in a state of shock.

They may release an above-average and uncontrolled quantity of catecholamins from their stockpiles. In that case catecholamins ought arguably not to be administered at all.

Professor Lewis feels drugs will be developed for treating shock, as we learn more about changes in the smallest structures of our bodies, that more specifically affect sub-cellular structures.

But there was no alternative to catecholamins for the time being even though, he said, they didn't eliminate all changes in all tissue or in every state of shock.

Vera Zylka

(Die Welt, Bonn, 25 October 1986)

Germs find a happy hunting ground up in space

Astronauts may be particularly infection-prone, initial findings of biological experiments on board Spacelab indicate.

Bacteria were found during the German-led D-1 Spacelab mission, which took place in autumn 1985, to multiply much faster in space than on Earth.

White blood corpuscles, which police the body, tracking down and eliminating foreign organisms, seem to be paralysed in outer space.

This conclusion is reached by European Space Agency scientist Dr Mesland of the Esa research and technology centre in Noordwijk, Holland.

He outlines the initial findings of "biorack" experiments on board Spacelab in the *Esa Bulletin*.

Results of experiments carried out during the D-1 mission were, he writes, the first in the history of biological experiments in outer space that could be clearly attributed to space conditions.

Extraneous factors such as acceleration and vibration during take-off and landing could be ruled out because they were also carried out in control groups.

One set of experiments was carried out on Earth, another on board Spacelab in the biorack, a centrifuge in which the Earth's gravity was simulated.

With separate readings available for comparison, Frankfurt microbiologist H.-D. Menningmann and an Italian colleague, O. Cifferi, have proved conclusively that bacteria multiply faster in zero gravity.

This finding could be a timely warning for manned space research. A number of bacteria cause disease and some of them seem to grow even more resistant to antibiotics in space, as a French medical researcher, R. Tixador, has shown in experiments with the much-researched microbe *Escherischia coli*.

The body's powers of resistance to germs seem to forfeit much of their strength in space. White blood corpuscles almost entirely lose their ability to track down foreign bodies and eliminate them with a suitable antibody.

This finding has been reached by a Zürich biochemist, A. Cogoli, from analysis of blood samples sent into orbit on board Spacelab and of samples taken from astronauts in space during the mission.

Bacteria are not alone in tending to grow uninhibitedly in space. A French medic, H. Planel, and a Hamburg botanist, D. Mergenhagen, have come across the same effect in experiments with larger single-cell organisms.

Like bacteria, they multiply by cell-splitting. Planel's experiment showed them to divided four times as fast in space as on Earth.

Faster reproduction in space seems to be matched, as it were, by a lower ability to differentiate.

The formation of spores, a reproduction technique used by certain bacteria, is a primitive form of cell differentiation.

Cell differentiation is a characteristic of higher living beings in that cells take on specific functions, becoming liver cells, for instance.

The spore contains the same genetic material as the parent cell but develops a slightly different function. Menningmann has found the ability of bacteria to form spores and differentiate cells to be lower in space than on Earth.

His findings are borne out by the work of H. Bücker of the German Aerospace Research Establishment's Cologne flight medicine institute and of R. Marco, a Spanish specialist in biomedicine.

Both experimented with insects' eggs. Their independent research and findings confirm a decline in cell differentiation capability in zero gravity.

It remains to be seen whether the same is true of higher organisms, such as man, in which cell specialisation is much more advanced.

Interestingly, the different behaviour of cells in space has points in common with cell abnormalities in cancer.

Cancer cells also seem to proliferate at the expense of their ability to differentiate.

deutscher forschungsdienst

(Bremer Nachrichten, 11 October 1986)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Lack of biologists and knowledge 'hitting flora and fauna conservation work'

Nearly half Germany's indigenous vertebrates are extinct or on the verge of extinction. Brown bears, ospreys and salmon are no longer found in Bavaria, and they are merely the best-known species that have failed to survive in the Alpine state.

Thirteen bird species alone are danger-listed as either extinct or, in one way or another, no longer extant in Bavaria.

With many other species of flora and fauna facing a similar fate, the 1976 Nature Conservation Act has failed to stop the rot.

Conservationists feel the provisions of the Act are less to blame than the authorities' failure to enforce them.

This failure is attributed to a shortage of qualified public service staff. The limited number of qualified nature conservation officers in the Federal Republic of Germany is claimed to be catastrophic.

At its Munich annual general meeting the German Biologists' Association, setting itself the task of bridging this gap, did more than just call for the appointment of more nature conservation officers.

Biologists, the association conceded, had been to blame too.

Better preparation

"We biologists have missed opportunities of giving policymakers a thorough grounding in ecology," said Gerhard Thielcke, vice-president of BUND, the environment and nature protection league.

Biologists themselves needed to be taught more about conservation at university and better prepared for practical work, the association said.

Only about 100 biologists in the Federal Republic worked in nature conservation. They amounted to between three and five per cent of local authority nature conservation staff.

In Bavaria, the Munich meeting was told, not one local authority employed a biologist as a nature conservation officer.

Not surprisingly, the shortfall in implementation of the Nature Conservation Act is particularly serious at local authority (as opposed to *Land* or Federal government) level.

"Regional planning and nature conservation policies and staffing arrangements in a majority of rural districts," the association says, "are characterised by ignorance and neglect without equal in any other public sector."

As the public sector does not have enough qualified full-time staff it frequently has to rely on voluntary, part-time support from members of private bodies.

Were it not for this back-up, the association said, essential scientific work to ensure the protection of flora, fauna and natural habitats would be impossible.

At least two biologists ought, the meeting was told, to be employed by each of the 550-odd rural district authorities to make official nature conservation activities at this level more competent.

An extra 4,000 appointments were needed all over the country if statutory nature conservation commitments were to be fulfilled, said Wolfgang Erz of the Federal Nature Conservation and Regional Ecology Research Establishment, Bonn.

He had no intention of triggering demarcation disputes with regional planners, farmers and forestry officials. What he wanted was extra jobs for biologists so as to ensure a more biology-orientated outlook in local government.

Nature conservation is important, as every public speaker is at pains to assure us. But next to no-one has any real idea what needs conserving.

Few people know what flora and fauna surround them. Not everyone would recognise such widespread flora and fauna as a dead-nettle or a chaffinch if they saw them.

"Even school and university biology teachers and students have appalling gaps in their knowledge," says Osnabrück University biologist Herbert Zucchi.

But you can't very well protect something you wouldn't know if you saw it. Gertrud Scherf of Munich University biology didactics unit has taken a closer look at the importance of teaching a modicum of knowledge of the species.

She tested fourth-grade schoolchildren in the Munich area to find out how many plants they recognised and what views they held on plant protection. The more they knew, the keener they were on conservation.

The children were taught at school to recognise more plants and the test was repeated. Their interest in nature conservation was found to have increased.

Their showing was even better after they had not only been shown plants in the classroom but seen them in their natural environment on an excursion. Girls, incidentally, recognised more plants than boys did.

Nature conservation is neglected at school, the Munich meeting was told. "How many teachers have a basic



grounding in ecology and at least some idea of the species," asked Gerhard Thielcke, "and how many are capable of teaching others what they know?"

University education was to blame for these shortcomings, he felt. Practical nature conservation was dealt with in a very cavalier fashion with both students training to become biology teachers and students aiming at a full diploma and career in biology.

There were, again, many reasons for this trend. Classical botanics and zoology are out of fashion. Genetics and biochemistry are where reputations are to be made and research grants to be gained nowadays.

"Teaching staff who run courses on nature conservation are often belittled and treated with unparalleled arrogance by fellow-teachers," says Zucchi.

As a university teacher he speaks with feeling — on the basis of personal experience.

"Yet you can be sure of your students' interest," he provocatively adds, "in lectures on nature conservation; they have long realised its importance."

Classical botanists and zoologists have an even harder time of it than Zucchi, who lectures on applied nature conservation. In part they have only themselves to blame for their wallflower existence in university biology departments.

They often concentrate on theoretical considerations of systematics and morphology, with the result that critics dismiss them as merely counting the legs of rare species of insect.

Paul Präve, association president, says far too little basic research on ecology and nature conservation is done at university.

"Nature conservation research is usually not commissioned until problems have arisen," Erz says. He also criticises the lack of political commitment shown by fellow-members of academic staff.

"They look on politicians as a source of funds," he says, "but fail to show the least interest in politics in any other respect."

Yet public commitment seems at present to be the only prospect of raising funds for what is a neglected research sector.

Heads of department who work in close and active collaboration with nature conservation agencies are less likely to complain that research funds are simply not available.

Shortage of funds and a theoretical orientation are often typical of subjects with a bearing on nature conservation.

Botany and zoology courses are overcrowded, staff are overworked and what they teach frequently has little bearing on students' interests.

"I imagined," a Freiburg biology student says, "that in zoology courses I would learn about how animals live, their habitats and the threats they face.

"Instead we were presented with piles of insects in glass bowls to identify. Our main task was to learn their names by heart.

"In the basic course we were mainly expected to mug up anatomy right down to the smallest detail. Never a mention was made of how animals lived."

Zucchi is critical of widespread teaching methods too:

"Exercises designed to teach students how to identify flora and fauna are often so remote from their living conditions that the knowledge they convey is short-lived."

Courses with the emphasis on ecology are overrun. Courses in limnology, or fresh water studies, at Freiburg and Konstanz are inundated with students keen to specialise in the subject after basic training.

The two limnology departments are seriously short of cash. Nowhere near enough funds are available to provide all Freiburg limnology diploma students with laboratory places of their own.

That would be virtually a matter of course if they were to specialise in biochemistry instead. As it is, some have to buy their own chemicals from the nearest pharmacy.

Students of trendier biology specialities can but smile wanly, feeling sorry for fellow-students reduced to such relative penury.

Yet even biologists who qualify in ecology-orientated courses are not adequately prepared for a career in nature conservation.

In academic terms, and despite university conditions verging on hardship, they may be well versed, but they are taught little or nothing at university about public administration, nature conservation law and how its provisions are implemented.

Practical knowledge in this sector is expected by potential public service employers, Zucchi has found in a country-wide survey.

To gear biology courses more to practical requirements of this kind the association has called for nature conservation studies to be introduced as a special subject at a number of universities along lines similar to the course already offered at Marburg.

The aim is to cover a wide range of practical subjects, such as nature conservation and regional planning, nature conservation law, environmental protection and public relations.

Projects are also planned in which students will probe the flora and fauna of a specific area in coordination with the local authority, thereby gaining an insight into relevant local authority activities and working methods and conditions.

Practical vacation courses with a regional planning authority and a nature conservation department are to add the finishing touches to the new-look course of study.

Basic training

It remains to be seen whether this ambitious project will work as planned in Marburg. It is still under consideration by the *Land* Education Ministry in Wiesbaden.

If, however, nature conservation does gain recognition as a main subject for biology students on a par with microbiology, botany or genetics it will be generally revalued and upgraded, the association feels.

While courses in nature conservation as a main subject are only planned at a few universities, lectures in nature conservation are to be given in all university biology departments.

The association is keen to see more ecology taught in basic training, with benefits accruing for both would-be teachers and career biologists.

Teachers who at university have learnt more than in recent decades about the life and ecology of domestic flora and fauna can help to ensure that such knowledge does not decline further in the industrialised Federal Republic.

They can make sure that children know their nature and feel responsible for its conservation. University training in practical nature conservation should make teachers better able to motivate pupils in this respect.

Career biologists (who take a master's rather than a bachelor's degree) specialising in nature conservation will find it easier to embark on a career in practical nature conservation.

At present biology graduates face stiff competition from graduates in regional planning. Departments of town and country planning at three German universities already run special courses in nature conservation.

Suitably qualified graduates in both subjects will not by themselves be enough to offset the shortfall in implementation of nature conservation provisions.

Graduates must also be given an opportunity of placing their specialised knowledge at the local authorities' disposal. That presupposes more appointments being authorised.

Christine Broll

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 17 October 1986)

■ HORIZONS

Therapy with a one-two and a change-your-partners

Whenever there is the opportunity to pass a message on through the body, then that opportunity should be used, says an exhortation written on a piece of cardboard stuck on a wall at a dance-therapy academy in the Rhineland.

It is an exhortation from the students at what is Germany's only such academy.

There are many sorts of dancing, and although dancing as a therapy is becoming better known, it still has a long way to go to get full recognition as a method of treatment.

The beginnings of dance therapy go back to the 1940s when dancers learnt a new form of expressive, creative dancing from the legendary Mary Wigman.

But the Nazis interrupted development of the art and almost all the exponents emigrated to the United States where they continued their work and discovered for themselves the liberating and curative effects unleashed by the creative intercourse with their experiences and emotions upon their mental condition.

From experiencing the therapeutic value on their own bodies, the next step was thinking about using dance as a means of helping other people. The idea of dance therapy was born.

Soon more and more psychologically varied influences emerged and, from these, the theoretical basis of dance therapy emerged. Since 1970, more than 15 American universities have introduced training courses.

Germany is lagging behind. But a decisive *step was taken in October, 1983, when in Monheim*, between Düsseldorf and Leverkusen, on the Rhine, the first specialist dancing school for therapy was founded and recognised by the state as a finishing school.

This school is still the only training centre in the whole of Europe where a dance-therapy certificate can be acquired.

Head of the school is Wally Kaechele, who is also the president of the German organisation controlling dance therapy.

For 16 years, she worked in a traditional dance school and on her own initiative, worked with slow-learner, ill and handicapped children.

She noticed a distinct improvement in their behaviour patterns and more decisiveness in their movements.

In 1977 she went to Canada to study under professor Juliana Lau at York University in Toronto — the first seat in dance therapy anywhere.

Back in Germany, Frau Kaechele talked about what she had learned at medical congresses and university seminars. Eventually, the centre of Monheim leased her premises for an academy.

Eighty students between 22 and 40 from all over West Germany and from Austria and Switzerland have attended. They are instructed by a permanent staff of four lecturers and between eight and 10 temporary lecturers, mostly from the United States and Canada.

Students must have reached roughly the equivalent of Abitur level, or university entrance. But others can gain admittance if they have completed studies in a career related to psychology, pedagogics or dance and art. A knowledge of dance is essential. The course lasts three years.

In the first two years, the accent is on such things as anatomy, physiology, pathology, psychology, dance and movement, didactics and choreography.

In the third year, the accent becomes more practice-oriented — in clinics with psychiatric and neurology departments.

They also work in old people's homes, accident wards and in rehabilitation centres for people with heart and circulation conditions, rheumatic complaints and brain injuries.

They also work in the fields of psychosomatics and addictive illnesses where dance-therapy has plenty of scope.

Training for dance therapists ends with a written work for a diploma and a practical examination.

The first 36 graduates will receive their diplomas next month and will then go out and put their knowledge into practice.

Wally Kaechele explains the fundamentals of dance therapy: "Dance is a language without words. When I give form to what I have and what I feel within me, I express it in such a way that it is dance."

These days there were so many troubled people who were unwilling or unable to talk about what was wrong.

There, at that point where discussion as a therapy reached its limit, was where dance-therapy began. The first step was to observe the patient's movements. This charted thoughts and feelings. Tensions and inhibitions became visible.

Kaechele: "The body doesn't lie." Every person had individual movement characteristics — how he or she sat, got up, walked, in bearing and gestures.

The job of the therapist was to analyse these movements and be able to recognise *the frame of mind at that instant and* be able to change it.

A good dance therapist, says Kaechele, is an observer, an analyst, a dancing partner, a person who can be looked upon as a model, a conductor, a catalyst and an empathetical person. This was all necessary to release the movement repertoire of the patient.

Dance-therapy helped the patient to learn to feel at home within the constrictions of emotional potentialities and within the dimensions of his or her substantive circumscriptions.

A person also learns to liberate him- or herself from stress and other influences in order to be better able to resolve conflicts of feeling.

A trainee who has almost completed the course says: "Getting to know and recognise yourself is an important aim of dance-therapy. A person who knows him- or herself can develop his capabilities in all areas over recognised limits — as a complete person.

"His feelings of self-esteem and his capacity to make contact with his environment grow."

Kaechele: "Dance-therapy makes clear to people in wheelchairs what extent movement is still possible. It doesn't reveal what a handicapped person cannot do. What he or she can do is, through dance-therapy, put into action."

In order to show people a realistic picture of what a career as a dance therapist involves, the BVT (the controlling organisation) is holding a series of weekend seminars in various parts of the country. Attendance at one of these seminars also counts as a condition for admittance to the Monheim academy as a student.

Like in many fields, there are more applicants than can be accepted.

Helga Holz

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 26 October 1986)



O sancta simplicitas! O, what fun Latin is, demonstrates professor Wilfried Stroh at Freising. (Photo: Eske Bockelmann)

Latin buffs show there's life yet in a dead language

The Latin freaks have again come down from their ivory tower. For the third time since 1984, professionals and amateurs alike have gathered round a Munich professor, Wilfried Stroh, to take part in a Latin festival.

A language said to be dead, and the nightmare of generations of schoolchildren, is being given a touch of life.

Twenty five of these Latin lovers met at Munich's Marienplatz to sing a hymn in the language of ancient Rome. They talked together in Latin, travelled together on the underground tube train to the outskirts of the city, and from there marched to Freising, the seat of the Archbishopric of Freising and Munich, on the outskirts of the city.

The happy band were overjoyed that, as professors, lecturers, doctors, teachers and pupils, they were able to experience Latin as a living language, not just as a academic subject or a mental exercise.

Many had travelled a long way to get to Freising — from America, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland. A Japanese from Kyoto had to call it off because of illness.

Antonius Salvi came from the Vatican where, believe it or not, Latin is in decline. So in Freising, the original 25 from the Marienplatz had swelled to about 200.

In the afternoon, they all started of from the Cathedral through the town's narrow alleys on a tour of Freising. All the while teachers and pupils showed amazement at how well Latin could be both spoken and understood.

In the evening were the opening celebrations. The Bavarian Education Minister, Hans Maier, was there; so was Freising's mayor, Adolf Schäfer and a prelate, Michael Hock.

It began with dancing to the sounds of a song being sung in Latin — Bernadette Schnyder, Professor Stroh and his assistant, Jürgen Leonhardt performed a sort of classical scholars' ballet.

Seldom could Latin be heard delivered with such verve. It was precise and harmonious. The scenario had ancient heathens of the Roman era meeting up with Christians from a slightly later era. Between the two, a real, humanitarian compromise was reached to the sounds of rollicking and rhythmic music and individual or collective singing.

But there was work as well. One work group busied itself, for example, with colloquial Latin while another prepared a report about a trip to Iceland a year ago and another with the natural philosophy of the Romans.

Pupils talked about grammar, there was an introduction to Gregorian church songs and a philosophical discussion about things military took place.

Another group discussed politics and letter writing by the ancient Romans. There were insights into Roman dancing including the so-called belly dance. All this was in Latin.

An expert talked about the paintings of Botticelli. And some concerned themselves with Jan Novak, who died in 1984. Novak, the spiritual father of this Latin revival, and whose compositions almost exclusively used Latin texts.

So, is this all merely another jerk in the death throes of Latin? Or a new beginning? Is Latin today not an anachronism? Why is so much effort in the schools spent on a language that for many is inalterably difficult?

Why the effort when Latin is spoken by so few, when later its principle use is in lectures? These questions are put time and time again, but Latin freaks say that they can ask, with equal justification, what use is music?

These new enthusiasts aim to give the Latin image a new polish. When a dignified classics professor dances with sparkling steps on the stage and Latin texts are sung, the show really does work.

This was instructive for both Latin teachers and pupils who were able to see how Latin lessons could be made brighter.

There are about 10,000 Latin teachers in Germany and about a million pupils. Many Abitur graduates leave school more or less determined never again to take a Latin text in the hand.

That result, says one commentator, after between five and nine years study, is wretched.

Efforts to enliven the language through work on the stage should have a remedial effect. Music and dancing are considered excellent media for putting Latin in another light.

(Students seldom hear from their lecturers informally spoken Latin. In the schools, pupils likewise hear informally spoken Latin seldom.)

It is this sort of vicious circle that the Ludi want to break and introduce some real enjoyment into the subject.

Caelestis Eichenseer

(Die Welt, Bonn, 25 October 1986)

■ FRONTIERS

Woman elected chairman of league soccer club

A 69-year-old woman has broken into a male domain: Gisela Schwerdt has been elected chairman of Arminia Bielefeld, a second division Bundesliga football club.

Frau Schwerdt is a former mayor of Bielefeld, chairwoman of the Red Cross, the German-Israeli Society and the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.

Men can be difficult when a women breaks into what they regard as their territory. Football is a particularly sensitive area.

Frau Scherdt's predecessor, Jörg auf der Heyde, said: "The chairmen of the clubs in the national league are wild that a woman has joined their ranks.

"They would have preferred two aged 34."

But Frau Schwerdt is never at a loss for words. In an interview in *Sport-Illustrierte* she replied that Jörg auf der Heyde had got his sums wrong. "I'm 69."

She has conquered the football world with her wit and charm. She can kick a ball about herself, and inherited her enthusiasm for the game from her mother who was a devoted fan.

By profession she is a book-keeper and can do her sums. She said: "It's a matter of getting hold of money and that will be difficult after the failure to gain promotion to the first division."

As soon as she was elected chairman she rolled up her sleeves and got down to business.

Allgemeine Zeitung MAINZ

She called up 500 Bielefeld firms and outlined an imaginative fund-raising plan; contributors could promote a single player directly, "for personal contact can be an inducement. The contributor gets the feeling — that's my man," she said.

She has given a lot of consideration as to how to spread her fund-raising message, and goes about her task like a true professional, beginning each day by reading the sports pages of the newspapers.

Her idea is not going to end up as has been the case in many other cities where players were sold because sponsors had gone bankrupt. "I was horrified when I first saw the books here."

As a former mayor, Schwerdt understands money. Previously she kept firms' accounts, including the books for her father's roofing firm.

She joined the FDP in 1953 and was a member of the council in the former local community of Senne I. She was deputy mayor there and in 1972 she was elected to the Bielefeld municipal council and eventually mayor.

Since then she has come into prominence through her prudent judgments.

After the political change in Bonn in *1982 she had to put up with criticisms* that the Liberals would lend their hand to anti-social demands.

She answered this from her own experience saying, "that after a period when we could afford to live beyond our means, a period of belt-tightening was inevitable, if there is a shortage of cash in the kitty."

As a housewife she is well aware of this. Her attitudes are typically Liberal, between social engagement and economic feasibility.

As mayor she praised "increasing business activity" and the sense of pulling together in Bielefeld. Typically Liberal she spoke out for personal initiatives not state support.

She said: "The people of the city built it and made it flourish, not regulations from a state legislature."

In her view the free market economy was the driving force for the city's vitality not the Town Hall. She does not mince her words and, apart from her sense of social engagement and her obvious pleasure at meeting people, she is valued for her frankness without being tactless.

She is critical of her fellow politicians saying: "There is too much manoeuvring in politics. We would be serving the electors better if we said straight-out what we thought of a situation."

She does that and perhaps in local politics it is easier to keep national politics out of things so long as they do not affect the city's interests.

For example she criticises the SPD complaining that "they allow fringe groups to bring into council discussions matters that have nothing to do with local politics."

Councillors are there to manage the city's affairs and problems, not to deal with nuclear armament and wage problems in the civil service, she said.

She believes that there should be no disruption of the division of responsibi*lities in government as set out in* the constitution.

Gisela Schwerdt, who now leads the FDP in the Bielefeld city council, fell victim to the SPD-Greens alliance after the recent local government elections.

Cannot be pigeon-holed ... Gisela Schwerdt. (Photo: teutopress)

Her comment about her football club that "it must be possible to bring things into order," does not apply to politics.

But she has been prepared to have a go. She went ahead and put up for the European Parliament without any prospects of winning. She is the only women in the Cities Conference and she put up for the presidency of the football club.

Her enthusiasm for her club is obvious. She quickly turns to talking about the team's shaky defence and the catastrophic 1:3 defeat against Fortuna Düsseldorf.

She is a local government politician, art lover (chairwoman of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra), socially engaged and emancipated. She can drive a car and is astonishingly active considering she is almost 70.

No clichée applies to her, even in football. A sports journalist said in amazement: "You can't pigeon-hole her. Certainly not in the 'We women against the men' sense."

Anne Gesche Olters

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 18 October 1986)

Continued from page 10

Hof, are both fascinated, in different ways, with this dark side of human nature.

American David Lynch (*Eraserhead* and *The Elephantman*) presented *Blue Velvet* this year, that deals with a naive, curious young man.

Neil Jordan comes from Eire. In *Mona Lisa* an old man, played by the unbeatable Bob Hoskins who was given the best actor award at Cannes, wanders through a nightmarish London.

These are two films made in very individual styles. They make no statement but include frames that will remain with the film-goer for a long time after seeing them.

The third outstanding film at Hof was the black and white *Down by Law*, by Jim Jarmusch. It describes a journey through the swamps of southern America with musicians Tom Waits and John Lurie, and the Italian comedian Rober*to* Benignix. These last three films mentioned will shortly be screened in West German cinemas. They can then be considered in greater detail.

This is true of several other films that were presented at Hof, such as Hugh Hudson's epic *Revolution* with Al Pacino, Donald Sutherland and Nastassja Kinski. This film is an attempt to show the turbulent times of the American Civil War as a collective destiny as well as being a vehicle for a star-studded cast.

More can also later be said about the first film from the American actress Sondra Locke, *Ratboy*, a fairy-tale variation on the Beauty and the Beast story.

She's gotta have it by Spike Lee ought to be seen again. It is directed with great originality, telling the story of the love-life of a self-confident American coloured girl.

Bodo Fründt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 28 October 1986)

A blow against anti-academic union tradition

Karin Benz-Overhage has been elected to the executive board of the largest trade union in the Western world.

She is the second woman to join the leadership ranks of IG Metall, the giant engineering and metalworkers' union.

After a disappointing election result at the union's congress in Hamburg salaries and wages expert Hans Janssen declined to take up his place on the union's executive board. Frau Benz-Overhage, 44, was elected to fill this gap.

Her election has brought the solution of a number of problems that much nearer.

First, the number of women on the executive committee is now two. Second, her election breaks the prejudice against academics, and third, the generation change in the leadership has been speeded up by not electing an older, interim candidate for three years.

Finally, an endurance test of new policies and in-fighting will be avoided.

Janssen was dropped because he was regarded too far left by some delegates from Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia.

Frau Benz-Overhage is a modern academic trade unionist who has been linked to the movement since she was very young.

She was elected with the second largest vote after many hours of discussion by the IG Metall executive committee and separate sittings of regional delegations.

She comes from an SPD and trade union family from Essen. She calls herself "a child of the Ruhr."



Child of the Ruhr ... Karin Benz-Overhage. (Photo: dpa)

After secondary school she studied to be an assistant in a chemistry laboratory. She joined the chemicals, paper and ceramics union and represented young people in the union. This determined her later career in trade unionism.

On the recommendation of the chemicals union and the workers council of the firm in which she worked she went to the German Trades Union Federation education centre at Frankfurt.

In the middle of the 1960s she was given a job by IG Metall as a teacher, "at a time when it was difficult for a women to get an executive position in unions except in sections traditionally reserved for women." In 1971 she was granted leave of absence.

She had married Georg Benz who from 1964 until his retirement in 1983 was on the executive board.

Benz was responsible for youth affairs, works councils and co-determination. Outside his trade union work he made a name for himself in the anti-nuclear bomb campaign, in the "Campaign against the Right" and the peace movement.

At the IG Metall congress in Hamburg it was clear that he was regarded as the Grand Old Man of this political movement.

After studying social science and labour law at the Frankfurt Institute for Social Reseach, where she graduated in 1982, Karin Benz-Overhage rejoined IG Metall as an automation specialist.

In this position she has been able to put to good use what she had studied. She has been able to let works councils and shop stewards know of the effects of the new technology, and advise how jobs, working methods and production structures developed from it can be set up with due regard to workers' rights.

Since 1984 she has been running an organisation she set up herself named "Project for Humanising Work."

Wolf-Günter Brügmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 October 1986)